MARCO'S STILL HIDING SOMETHING FROM US.
SOME-THING HE CAN'T TALK ABOUT.

BUT IT DOESN'T WORK THAT WAY.

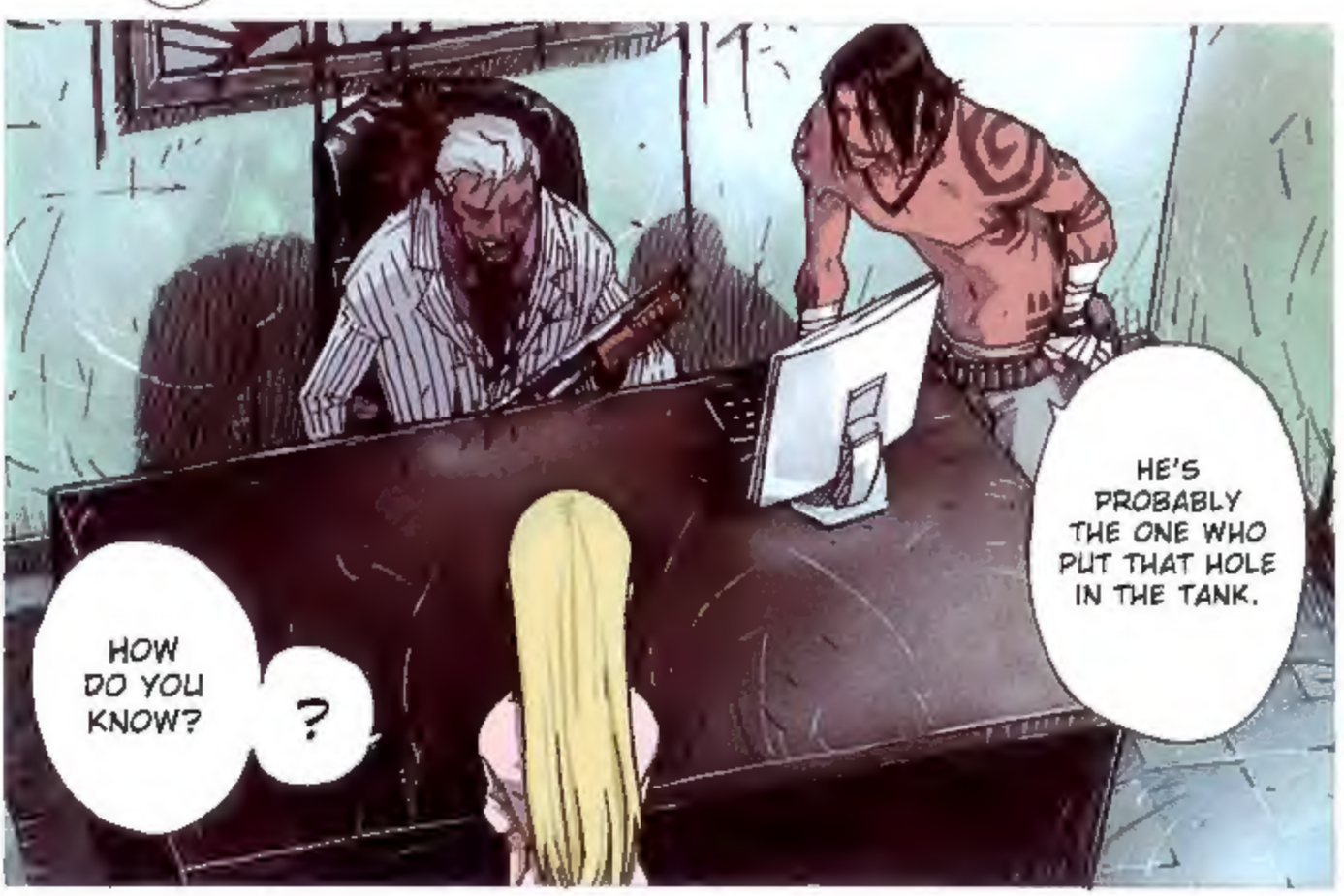
WE'VE BEEN TOGETHER THROUGH THICK AND THIN ...
AND WE'VE TRUSTED ONE ANO-THER.
...

Chapter 18

The Truth About Medusa

WHAT A WAY TO GO!

WAS IT SUICIDE?
LOOKS LIKE IT.


HE'S PROBABLY THE ONE WHO PUT THAT HOLE IN THE TANK.
HOW DO YOU KNOW?
?

TWO OF THEM HAVE BEEN USED.

A GRENADE LAUNCHER WITH CAPACITY FOR SIX ROUNDS ...

LOOK HERE.

UNTIL TODAY, I'VE ONLY SEEN THOSE THINGS IN MOVIES.

WELL ...

A POWERFUL WEAPON ...

THOCK

HUH?

WHAT IS IT?

TO FLOOD THE PLACE?

BUT WHY DID HE SHOOT A HOLE IN THE TANK?

...

IT'S STRANGE THAT HE'S THE ONLY ONE WE'VE FOUND.

BING

MAYBE IT RECORDED HIS LAST MINUTES ...

ｶﾀ ｶﾀ ｶﾀ

INSTALLED IN THE NOTE-BOOK.

THERE'S A CAMERA

ｷｭｯ

ﾊｧﾊｧ

TAKK TAKK

!?

MY NAME IS IVAN KAROL VEGA ...

REPRE-SENTATIVE OF VENUS GATE.

!

10

THIS IS A MESSAGE TO ANYONE WHO SURVIVED ...

...

!

GET THE GIRL.

MAYBE NO ONE WILL EVER GET TO SEE THIS, BUT ...

...

KASUMI ...

...

I'M ALREADY HERE.

!

...

He has to tell me about that girl ...

From now on the same rules apply to everybody.

YOU AL-RIGHT?

YES.

THE LEADER OF THIS PROJECT.

TO KEEP IT FROM ESCAPING.

WHO'S THAT?

AT LEAST I DID EVERYTHING I COULD

THEY'LL ONLY MAKE THINGS WORSE.

TO TOP IT OFF, NOW EVEN THE ARMY'S ATTACKING US.

KRACK

...

THEY ATTACKED THE CASTLE.

THE ARMY?

IT'S ONLY A MATTER OF TIME UNTIL THEY BREAK DOWN OUR SEALED DOORS.

...AT THE END.

!

YOU CAN SEE SOME OF THEM ...

HERE, ON THIS TAPE.

AND STARTED TO TAKE CONTROL.

THEY STORMED THIS FACILITY.

...

WHAT HAPPEN-ED?

BUT SUDDENLY ...

...

WORDS CAN'T DES-CRIBE IT ...

...

THE CIA HONESTLY BELIEVES THAT MEDUSA IS THE RESULT OF A TERRORIST ACT PERPETRATED BY VENUS GATE.

Sulp

...

WHAT THEY'RE DEALING WITH.

THEY HAVE NO CLUE.

THOSE FOOLS!

AS FAR AS WE KNOW,

IT ARRIVED ON EARTH EIGHT YEARS AGO,

BROUGHT BY A METEOR SHOWER.

ZU

!

HH

ZU

ZU

ONE OF THE METEORS FROM THAT SHOWER

DIDN'T BURN IN THE ATMO-SPHERE,

AND CRASHED IN SIBERIA INSTEAD.

!

ONLY SMALL FRAGMENTS REMAINED, BUT THAT WAS ENOUGH.

...

AFTER THE IMPACT,

nah

nah

IT FELL IN MY HOME COUNTRY

...

...

HALF A YEAR LATER HIS FAMILY DIED MYSTERIOUSLY.

JUST BEING NEXT TO IT WAS ENOUGH TO INFECT HIM.

EVEN THOUGH THE BOY DIDN'T TAKE ANY FRAGMENT,

THE TRUTH ABOUT THOSE MYSTERIOUS DEATHS WAS NEVER RE-VEALED

THIS WAS THE FIRST CASE OF MEDUSA.

BECAUSE

ゴキ ゴキ

EVERYTHING HAD BEEN REDUCED TO ASHES BEFORE SHE WAS FOUND.

THE ONLY SURVIVOR, A LITTLE GIRL, BURNED EVERYTHING THAT WAS LEFT.

ゴゴゴ

THAT AT THE EXACT SAME MOMENT MEDUSA SPREAD THROUGHOUT THE WORLD.

IT IS POSSIBLE ...

ХАР

THAT GRANTED US ACCESS TO THE TRUE POWER

AND VAST POTENTIAL

OF MEDUSA.

...

IT'S THE EXISTENCE OF THIS GIRL

ガーン

"Girl?"

"VAST POTEN-TIAL?"

...

TO GET TO THE POINT...

...

WE'RE SPEAKING OF AN ENTITY ON THE EDGE OF NONEXIS-TENCE.

IT HAS NEITHER COLOR, NOR FORM.

OF COURSE IT'S NEITHER A VIRUS, NOR A BACTE-RIA,

AS IT DOESN'T HAVE ANY AMINOACIDS OR PROTEINS IN ITS STRUC-TURE

ARE WE SUPPOSED TO BEL'EVE THAT?

IT POSSESSES NO MATERIAL SUBSTANCE

THERE'S A GOOD REASON WHY NO DOCTORS OR SCIENTISTS HAVE BEEN ABLE TO LOCATE MEDUSA

THE HUMAN BODY,

BECAUSE MEDUSA DOES NOT INFECT

BUT THE MIND.

MEDUSA IS AN INCORPOREAL INFECTION OF THE PSYCHE.

...

OUR MINDS?

!?

OVER THE EONS, IT LOST ITS AWARENESS OF SELF,

WITH NO PURPOSE OR INTENT.

A SHAPE-LESS SPECIES DRIFTING THROUGH THE COSMOS

LEAVING NOTHING BUT A FEELING OF INSATIABLE HUNGER.

THE LITTLE GIRL, THE SOLE SURVIVOR, MADE IT POSSIBLE TO SOLVE THIS MYSTERY.

...

AND SO,

IT HUN-GERED.

SHE HAD A FRIEND ONLY SHE WAS ABLE TO SEE.

SHE HAD SOMETHING THAT MADE HER DIFFERENT FROM HER OTHER FAMILY MEMBERS

SHE SUFFERED FROM DISASSOCIATIVE IDENTITY DISORDER.

ACCORDING TO THE MEDICAL STATEMENTS,

HER INVISIBLE FRIEND WAS NAMED LALUU.

AND POSSESSING A CAT-LIKE TAIL.

SHE DESCRIBED HIM AS ONE YEAR YOUNGER THAN SHE WAS,

THE NEXT DAY I VISITED HER TO ASK SOME QUESTIONS.

...

MAY I SIT DOWN?

poke

poke

poke

...

poke

poke

WHY YOU BURNT DOWN YOUR HOUSE?

WOULD YOU LIKE TO TELL ME ...

...

...

...

I DIDN'T WANT *HIM* TO ESCAPE.

THEY SAID THAT THE CORPSE HAD BURNT REMAINS OF A CAT LIKE TAIL.

HER FAMILY ONLY HAD 4 MEMBERS,

IT WAS AWAY FROM THE OTHERS, APPARENTLY LOCKED IN A ROOM.

YET A FIFTH BODY WAS FOUND.

THE POLICE WASN'T ABLE TO IDENTIFY THE CORPSE.

OBVI OUSLY.

AFTER ALL, UNTIL THEN THAT CREATURE HAD ONLY EXISTED IN HER MIND.

!?

?

!!?

!

....CAN TURN YOUR IMAGINATION NTO REALITY

HE'S SAYING THAT MEDUSA

WHAT DOES HE MEAN?

AND SUDDENLY EVERYTHING MADE SENSE.

...

AT THAT MOMENT I HEARD THE VOICE OF GOD.

THESE FATEFUL EVENTS REVEALED MY FUTURE PATH ...

ALL OF IT ...

THE FIRE AND THE GIRL WITH DID" ...

THE BOY WITH THE REINDEER ...

THE METEOR SHOWER ...

D.D. DISASSOCIATIVE IDENTITY DISORDER

AND IT WAS I WHO OBTAINED THIS POWER.

...

MEDUSA HAS THE POWER

... TO TURN IMAGINATION INTO REALITY.

IVAN, YOU WERE CHOSEN.

...

GET TO THE POINT!

THE MEDUSA RESEARCH TOOK A LONG TIME, BUT WE FINALLY MANAGED TO FIND THE ANSWERS WE WERE SEARCHING FOR

ALL THAT WAS LEFT WAS TO PUT THE PLAN INTO ACTION.

!?

!

THREE CONDITIONS MUST BE MET FOR MEDUSA TO TURN THE FIGMENTS OF YOUR IMAGINATION INTO REALITY

THE FIRST CONDITION IS FOR THE INFECTED PERSON TO HAVE A STRONG VISUAL IMAGINATION.

AFTER THAT MEDUSA WILL AWAKEN AND CREATE ITS MATERIAL BODY USING THAT IMAGE.

THE SHAPELESS ENTITY NEEDS TO FIND AN IMAGE WITHIN THE HOST'S MIND THAT IT CAN ADOPT. THIS CONDITION IS ABSOLUTELY CRUCIAL.

THE SEPA-
RATION WILL FAIL
AND THE CREATURE
WILL DISINTEGRATE
THIS WILL ALSO
AFFECT THE HOST,
WHICH WILL
PETRIFY

HOWEVER
IF THE IMAGE
IS NOT STRONG
ENOUGH,

MEDUSA
WILL ALSO TAKE
OVER A PART OF
THE HOST'S BODY
AND THEN IT WILL
START TO
SEPARATE
ITSELF

THE FIRE
DISPERSED MEDUSA
EVERYWHERE IN
THE WORLD, BUT IT
ALSO REDUCED ITS
CONCENTRATION
CONSIDERABLY

THE
RESULT WAS A
LOW INFECTION
RATE.

THE PROBABI-
LITY OF GETTING
INFECTED BY MEDUSA
IS PROPORTIONAL
TO ITS CONCEN-
TRATION.

THE SECOND
CONDITION
CONCERNS THE
CONCENTRATION
OF MEDUSA.

THEREFORE
THERE WAS
NEVER ANOTHER
CASE LIKE THE
GIRL'S.

AS A WEAK-
ENED MEDUSA
CANNOT TO INFECT
A HUMAN WITH
A STRONG
IMAGINATION.

A LOW
CONCEN-
TRATION MADE
IT IMPOSSIBLE
FOR THE FIRST
CONDITION TO
BE MET

THE THIRD CONDI- TION ...

!

ヘト ヘト

...

DOES THAT MEAN WE'VE REACHED A STAGE WERE WE CAN'T BE CURED ANYMORE?

...

WE FOUND SEPARATION SCARS ON THE GIRL'S BACK.

...

CAN BE OBTAINED EASILY.

THE ENERGY NEEDED FOR MEDUSA CELLS TO REPLICATE ...

SO THEORETICALLY, ONLY ONE CELL IS THE STARTING POINT FOR THE CREATION OF A HUGE BODY,

AS LONG AS THE MUTATED MEDUSA CELLS HAVE AN AVAILABLE ENERGY SOURCE, THEY WILL KEEP ON MULTIPLYING.

...

THE MEDUSA GOT THE ENERGY IT NEEDED BY EATING THE REIN- DEER'S HEAD.

THIS IS
...

...

...
WHO WILL
NEVER AGE
OR DIE.

...

...

!

ONLY
A SHELL
...

AS YOU CAN SEE, THIS IS THE RESULT

BUT ...

WOULDN'T THAT ALLOW US TO STEER THE WORLD INTO A NEW DIRECTION?

...

I THOUGHT ABOUT IT

WOULDN'T IT BE POSSIBLE TO CREATE A GOD, A GOD AFTER MY IMAGINATION?

THAT WAS LYING WITHIN MEDUSA.

I WASN'T ABLE TO SEE THROUGH THE TERRIBLE TRUTH,

...

I MADE THE WRONG DECISION.

IF ONLY I HAD UNDERSTOOD THAT EARLIER.

...

Poke

Poke

Poke

IF I THINK BACK ON IT NOW

... THE REASON SHE KILLED HER "FRIEND" IS CLEAR TO ME.

...

ARE YOU SORRY THAT YOU KILLED YOUR FRIEND?

I THINK THAT ...

...WHAT I DID TO THAT GIRL IS ABSOLUTELY UNFORGIV-ABLE.

...!

THIS FACILITY WAS SUPPOSED TO GIVE US CONTROL OVER THE IMAGES SPAWNED BY MEDUSA.

AND TO TURN THEM INTO REALITY

THE FACILITY WE DESIGNED BECAME HER PRISON.

"FACILITY"?!

IT EXCEEDED ALL MY EXPECTATIONS

YES.

EVERYTHING HAPPENED BECAUSE OF THIS FACILITY.

THEN IS THIS FACILITY ...

I WAS BETRAYED.

FOR THAT REASON WE ASSEMBLED 160 PATIENTS HERE

BUT ...

THAT WOULD MEAN IT SHOULD BE POSSIBLE TO COMPLETELY SEPARATE MEDUSA FROM ITS HOST.

LET'S SAY EVERYTHING HE TOLD US IS THE TRUTH.

I MIGHT HAVE A CLUE ABOUT THAT

BUT... WHAT DOES HE MEAN BY BETRAYAL?

YEAH.

!

REALLY?

...!

DON'T SAY THAT AGAIN!

BUT DON'T WORRY, JUST TRUST ME AND LISTEN TO ME.

!

TOO LATE FOR ME. I WILL KILL MYSELF.

BUT IT'S

CLICK

!

..THERE MIGHT STILL BE HOPE FOR A FUTURE

IF SOMEONE WILL WATCH THIS RECORDING..

DON'T LOOK!

!!!

BANG!

FORGIVE ME.. ALICE ..

So, we are reassurecting KoT...aren't you happy? I am! Special thanks to Siedhr for introducing me to this nice manga - thanks!

Greetings strangers! yai here! I'll be translating King of Thorns for Strays! I hope you'll enjoy KoT as much as I did!

When I first started doing scanlations it was to do those manga I wanted to read. So doing KoT was like a dream come true for me. One of my favorites. Enjoy!

Well, I'm glad she's happy, because it was one hell of a chapter with WALLS OF TEXT on 30 pages straight. I can't say much else because my arms still need to rest from 6 hours of typesetting in a row.

Never read this series, but apparently I'm scanlating it :D

BTW: Pink is the new win.

King of Thorns

A Strays Production

Translated by yai. Cleaning by Aladar and Devin.
Typeset by LoktarOgar. QC by Devin and Siedhr.

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いばらの王

King of Thorn.

4

岩原裕二

Yuji Iwahara

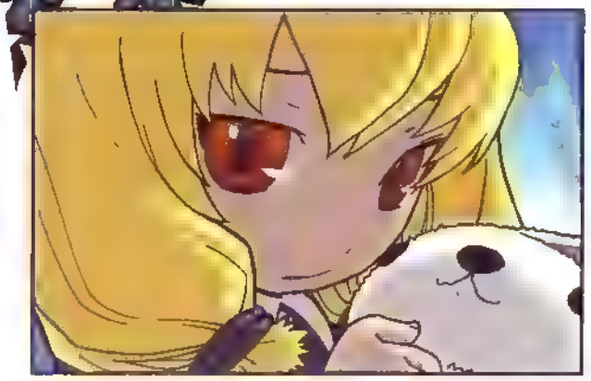
BEAM COMIX

ISBN4-7577-1987-6

C0979 ¥620E

定価 本体620円 +税

エンターブレイン



石化病が身体を蝕む仲間たちを残して、マルコ・オーエンは単身、'レベル4'へと突き進む。次第に解き明かされていく謎の数々！　奇病メドゥーサの正体、古城孤立の真相、マルコ潜人の目的……。生還への、微かな希望が生まれるなかで、カスミの前に現れた最後の人物とは!?　物語は最高潮に迫る！　古城脱出活劇第4巻!!

いばらの王

King of Thorn.

4

岩原裕二

Yuji Iwahara

いばらの王 4

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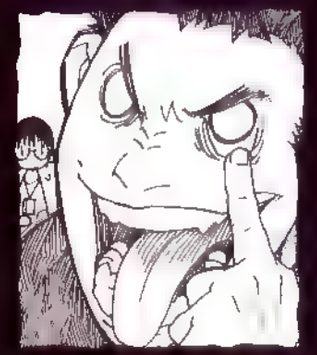
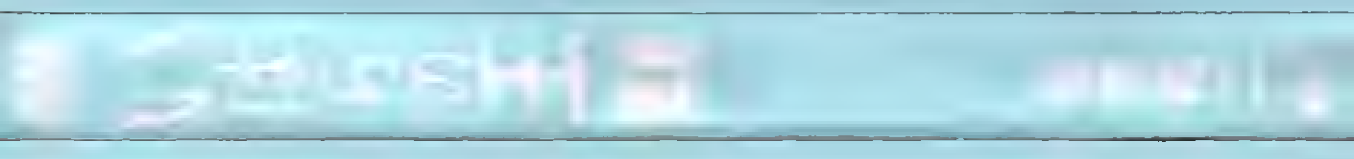
岩原裕二
Yuji Iwahara



とうとう4巻。これまで隠だったものが、次第に明らかに。順序としてはもっと早くに明らかにしたほうがよかったものもあるけれど、まあ、細かい事は気にせずに。楽しく読んでいただければ幸いです。



Chapter 19

Freefall

huff

huff

shh ...

AN UNDER-GROUND DUNGEON ?

OH SHIT ...

nah ...

SSH HAA HH!

ナル
ナル
ナル
ナル
ナル

THE END
3
whh
..
AHH

SEEMS THAT MY WILL TO SURVIVE IS STRONGER THAN I THOUGHT ...
SQUEAK
hah
hah
DAMN IT...

ゴゴ
ゴゴゴゴゴ

?

ガキッ

!

STILL ALIVE ...

hff ...

hff ...

hff ...

hff ...

nah

nah

...!

NNGH ...

KRK

KRK

WHAT NOW?

ARGH!

nah

SHIT ...

nah

huff

huff

CRUM-BLE

CRUM-BLE

CRUM-BLE

?!!

カ!!!!!!

EXCUSE ME...

GAAH!

KAK

KAK

KAK

WHERE IS EVERY-ONE?

ME ...?

DEAD ...?

YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE DEAD!

YOU ...

KAKS

KAKS

WHAT'S WRONG?

...I'M ALIVE. AREN'T I?

BUT ...

KRK

KRK

GUAAAH!

TAKE A CLOSER LOOK ...

ナ!!

ナ!!

ナ!!

ナ!!

ナ!!

AAHH...

HHH

KRKS

HOW CRUEL ...

SHIT!

SOON, I'LL PROBABLY LOOK LIKE THAT

KRKS

... MEDUSA'S TRUE FORM

IF THAT'S ...

huff

huff

huff

...!

BUT I'M NOT GONNA DIE HERE.

huff

huff

キィ

ドゴゴゴゴゴゴ

DAM-
--

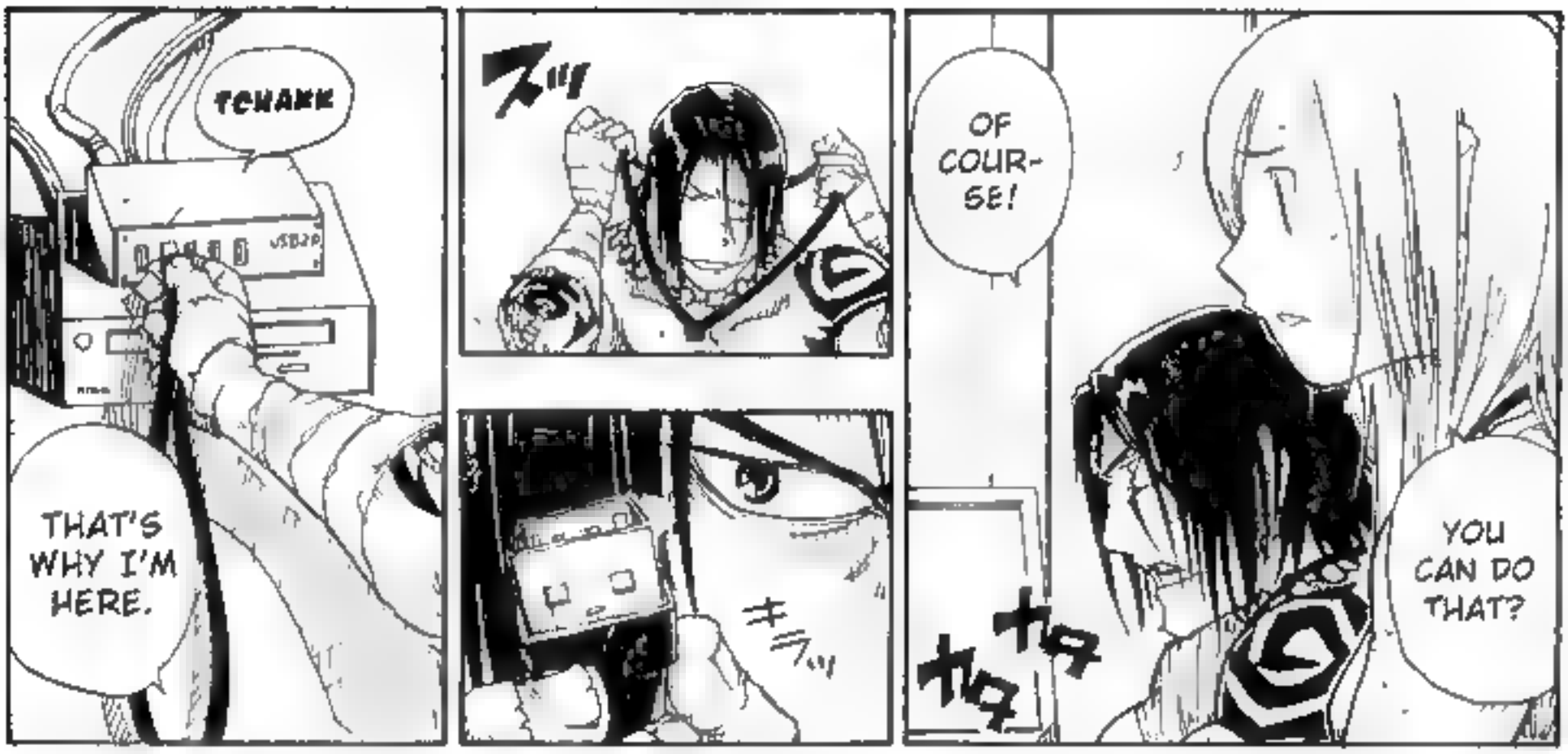
...

I'LL USE THIS TERMINAL TO HACK INTO THE MAIN-FRAME,

AND THEN I'LL CONTROL THE WHOLE SYSTEM!

OKAY!

バキ


TCHAKK
THAT'S WHY I'M HERE.
ZIII
OF COUR-SE!
YOU CAN DO THAT?
TAP TAP
I WON'T HAVE TIME FOR IT.
I TOOK CARE OF THE PROGRAM BEFORE-HAND. BECAUSE ONCE I'M IN,
...!
EVEN THAT CORD AROUND YOUR NECK IS USED FOR SPYING?
TAP TAP TAP TAP TAP
I BUILT UP MY MUSCLES WHEN I WAS IN PRISON.
YOU LOOK MORE LIKE A... THUG ...
YOU REALLY DON'T LOOK LIKE ONE ...
...
YOU REALLY ARE A HACKER.
SO YOUR STORY IS TRUE ..

HM ...

NO WONDER HE WAS INTER-ESTED ...

THE POWER TO TURN IMAGI-NATION INTO REALITY ...

TWO YEARS AND FOUR MONTHS ...

...

SAME WITH THE TATTOOS ...

IN

OPEN

OPEN

COMPLETE

OPEN

OPEN

OPEN

OPEN

OPEN

CLOSE

OPEN

OPEN

OPEN

CLOSE

A Block

B Block

CLOSE

CLOSE

OPEN

OPEN

OPEN

OPEN

COMPLETE

ATTACK EXE

58%

BING BING BING...

THE DATA FOR LEVEL 4.

SHIT!

E_Block

!PROTECT!

ATTACK EXE · ERROR

86%

BIIIIP

SING SING SING ...

KE

81%

...

!

...
THE PLACE WHERE YOU CAN TURN MAGES INTO REALITY AND SEPARATE THEM FROM THE HOST.

MOST LIKELY ...

MAIN LAB?

I CAN'T ACCESS THE DATA FOR THE MAIN LAB. IT'S PROTECTED

IF I THOUGHT THAT WHAT HE SAID WAS A LIE.

I WOULDN'T BE WORKING MY ASS OFF FOR THIS DATA.

THAT'S NOT IMPOR-TANT.

DO YOU REALLY BELIEVE ...

...WHAT THAT MAN SAID?

...

AND THEN WE CAN MOVE ON.

IT'LL BE A WHILE TILL THE WATER'S DOWN

AND NOW, BE QUIET

YOU SHOULD GO WATCH TH S TAPE.

OH AND ...

?

...

OKAY.

...

I WOULD LIKE TO HEAR YOUR OPINION ABOUT THAT TAPE

SO WATCH THE WHOLE THING.

WHAT'S SO SPECIAL ABOUT THAT TAPE?

IF IT'S ONLY ABOUT THE ATTACK ON THE CASTLE, YOU COULD HAVE SIMPLY TOLD HER ABOUT IT.

ALSO ...

... THERE WERE A LOT OF TAPES YOU COULD'VE TAKEN WITH YOU. WHY TH S ONE ..?

...

tta tta tta

OK

...

...

...

!

!!

ARRGH ...

YOU'RE ALWAYS HIDING SOMETH.NG!

I...

.. HAD MY REA-SONS.

tta tta

...

!!

WHAT'S WRONG W TH H.M?

HE ALWAYS TREATS ME LIKE I'M A LITTLE KID!

...

hah

hah

hah

YOU DON'T SEEM TO HAVE MUCH TIME LEFT ...

THAT IDIOT ...

I CAN MAKE DECI-SIONS FOR MYSELF.

ガチャ

ウィィィ

IN THE PAST, I ALWAYS RELIED A BIT TOO MUCH ON SHIZUKU ..

OH WELL ...

LEVEL 4

LEVEL 4 ...

Were they attacked there?

The west entrance ...

ONE IN THE EAST AND ONE IN THE WEST.

LEVEL 4 ONLY HAS TWO POINTS OF ACCESS.

...

...

...

NOTHING IS HAPPENING THERE.

...

UGH ...

huff

huff

huff

huff

huff

hah

hah

SHIT!

!

NGH ...

NOT ANO-THER HOLE ...

NO ...

ヒュー

ガリ

MAYBE THERE'S A PAS-SAGE DOWN THERE?

ヒュウウウウ

SSH AA HH!

!!!

ヒュー

...

Splash

WA-TER?

UGGH!

!!

SHAAAA

BOKK

OPEN

OPEN

CLOSE

THE DOOR IS CLOSED.

A BIG ROOM ON THE LOWEST LEVEL.

PROBABLY STORAGE SPACE.

I'LL OPEN IT.

THERE.

ゴゴゴゴ

ゴゴゴ

ゴゴゴゴ

AAAAAAAAAH!

WHERE AM I?

hah

hah

BLAH!!

NEXT, I'LL MOVE THE ELEVATORS WHICH STOP THE WATER FROM MOVING DOWN, SO THAT IT CAN FLOW INTO THAT ROOM.

I'LL CLOSE UP THE ROOMS WE DON'T NEED AND SEAL THE WATER THERE.

!?

ゴゴゴゴ

P!!!!

P!!!!

ゴゴゴゴ

ゴゴゴゴ

ゴゴゴ

blubb

B-6

ズーン

WHAT?

HUH ?!

SO DOES THAT MEAN WE CAN MOVE ON?

NOT...

...YET.

CLICK

CLICK

OKAY, AND NOW I'M GOING TO DISABLE ALL THE SECURITY PROTOCOLS.

DO YOU REMEMBER THAT TUNNEL BETWEEN THE POWER STATION AND THE CASTLE?

...

WHAT NOW?

CLOSE

OPEN

OPEN

THE WATER LEVEL ONLY DROPPED TO THIS POINT.

THE FLOOR WHERE WE WANT TO GO S STILL 90% UNDER WATER.

OPEN

I THINK THAT THE WATER IS COMING FROM HERE.

!

WHERE THE CONGRESS-MAN DIED

OH .

FUNNY ENOUGH, THE TUNNEL WAS PARTIALLY FLOODED

EVERY-THING WENT SMOOTHLY 'TILL NOW. IT'S STILL RISKY THOUGH.

BUT F WE DO THAT ..

.WON'T THAT CAUSE A SHORT-CIRCUIT?

CHECK ON THE GIRL FOR ME.

...

CLOSE

SOME-WHERE AROUND HERE, WHERE THE ELECTRIC CABLES ARE

POWER LINE

...

IT WILL BE POSSIBLE TO LET ALL THE WATER FLOW INTO THE TUNNEL!

IF WE FIND THE PLACE THE WATER IS SEEPING THROUGH AND ENLARGE IT ..

YOU'RE HARD TO READ

...

TIM

?

OKAY.

I'VE TREATED HER A B T TOO HARSH-ˌY EAR-ˌIER.

PLEASE .

KASUMI.

PLEASE GO TO THEM AND CLOSE THE DOOR AF-TER YOU

...?

OKAY?

...

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

AH!

...

NOTHING AT ALL..

...

HOW ABOUT THE TAPE?

A GUN ...

I THOUGHT HE MIGHT HAVE SOME-THING USEFUL..

LOCK

FREE

CLICK

...

?!

NGHH
..

IT'S A CURRENT.

WHAT ...

hah

hah

!

...

WHAAT?

ガタ ガタ

THE LOCK ...

IT WON'T OPEN ...!

IT ...

CHIP?

MARCO, WHAT'S GOING ON?

MARCO!

?!

LISTEN.

ARE YOU GOING TO BETRAY US AGAIN?

SHE SHOULD STILL HAVE THAT MUCH TIME.

!

...

...!

THE DOOR WILL OPEN AUTOMATI-CALLY WHEN THE WATER LEVEL DROPS.

AND EVEN IF IT DOESN'T DROP, IT'LL STILL OPEN AFTER 45 MINUTES.

...!

YOU WANT TO GO THERE ALONE?

YOU SHOULD FOLLOW ME AND RUN TO-WARD THE MAIN LAB.

AS SOON AS THE DOOR OPENS,

UNTIL THEN, I HAVE TO TAKE CARE OF SOME-THING.

KASUMI.

!?

IT'S FASTER THIS WAY.

DON'T FORGET THAT.

...

...YOU SHOULD REALIZE THAT YOU CAN'T ALWAYS SEE THE TRUTH AT FIRST GLANCE.

BUT NOW THAT YOU KNOW WHAT MEDUSA IS ...

IF YOU WATCH THE TAPE TILL THE END, YOU'LL SEE THE SAME THING I DID.

AH...

ZZZ

SO THEN ...

THERE'S SOMETHING I NEED TO FINISH. NO MATTER WHAT IT COSTS ME.

...!

YOU ...

... SNEAKY

MAR-CO!

WAIT, MARCO!

43860 2005 09 23 11 09

LEVEL 4

...

HOW SELF-ISH!

HIP

CLANG

NGHH ...

GUAAAAH!

ゴロー

MMPFH

GUOHH...

huff

huff

WHAT IS THAT?

WHAT ...

huff

huff

So... KoT again. It seems like this manga beat up My Balls in popularity. I've never expected that.

Siedhr and yal are currently uninspired. Come back for rants at a later date.

*huff hah ?! kriss ... Hate. SFX.

sigh

King of Thorns

A Strays Production

Translated by yal. Cleaning by Aladar and Devin. Typeset by LokiarOgar. QC by Devin and Siedhr.

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Chapter 20

Marco's Enemy

MARCO ...

MARCO ...

MARCO ...

... REACH MY LEVEL.

YOU WILL NEVER ...

JUST WAIT AND SEE!

HMPH ...

L4

1

WHAP

KRAP

KRAP

LET'S DO IT!

OKAY.

YAAAH!

SHUNK

?!!

...

KA-
SU-
MI
...

WAIT
...

WHAT
...?!

!

IYA
...

...
ÄÄÄ
...

...
ÄÄÄH
HH!

CLANG

...

hah

hah

hah

CRASH

NO!

KA-
SU-
MI
...!

STOP
THIS!

AGHH
...

DON'T EVEN THINK OF IT!

YOU COULD FALL!

I'LL GET OUT THROUGH THE WINDOW ...

... AND MARCO ...

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

HE CAN HANDLE IT.

DON'T WORRY!

... WHAT IF MARCO IS ATTACKED BY ONE OF THOSE MONSTERS ...

BUT ...

HE LEFT YOU BEHIND BECAUSE HE'S WORRIED ABOUT YOU.

DON'T YOU UNDER-STAND?

IF YOU FOLLOW HIM, YOU WILL ONLY BE A BURDEN!

SO WATCH IT!

LEVEL

THERE'S SOMETHING ON THIS TAPE YOU SHOULD SEE!

DO YOU REMEMBER WHAT HE SAID?

BUT ...

OKAY ...

...

"YOU'LL SEE THE SAME THING I DID."

HE SAID THAT, DIDN'T HE?

...

AND JUST WATCH THE END, SO WE CAN SEE FOR OURSELVES.

THIS IS THE FIRST TIME HE TRIED TO TELL YOU SOMETHING.

LET'S SKIP THE INSIGNIFICANT SCENES ...

ITO
ITO
ITO
ITO

TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF ...

MARCO ...

ITO

THE WATER LEVEL DIDN'T DROP AS MUCH AS I EXPECTED.

tch

...

...

ch-ck

THERE SHOULD BE A PASSAGE DOWN THERE.

AA

ゴボ"
!
ARC
VEN
ゴボ"
!!
SHIT
...

ｺﾆｬ

I WONDER WHERE I AM ...

hah

I FELL QUITE A DISTANCE ...

hah

... LEVEL 4?

IS THIS ...

hah

wiggle

wiggle

DAMN IT! THINGS ARE SURE LOOKING UP FOR ME!

ｽﾞｽﾞｽﾞｽﾞ

THIS IS A ...

ｽﾞﾘﾘﾘ

CLONG

I WONDER WHERE THE OTHERS ARE.

ｽﾞﾘﾘﾘ

?

ｻﾞﾜﾜﾜﾜ

WHAP

…?

?!!

ﾆﾔ"

ﾆﾔﾆﾔ

AFTER

WHAT IS ... THIS?

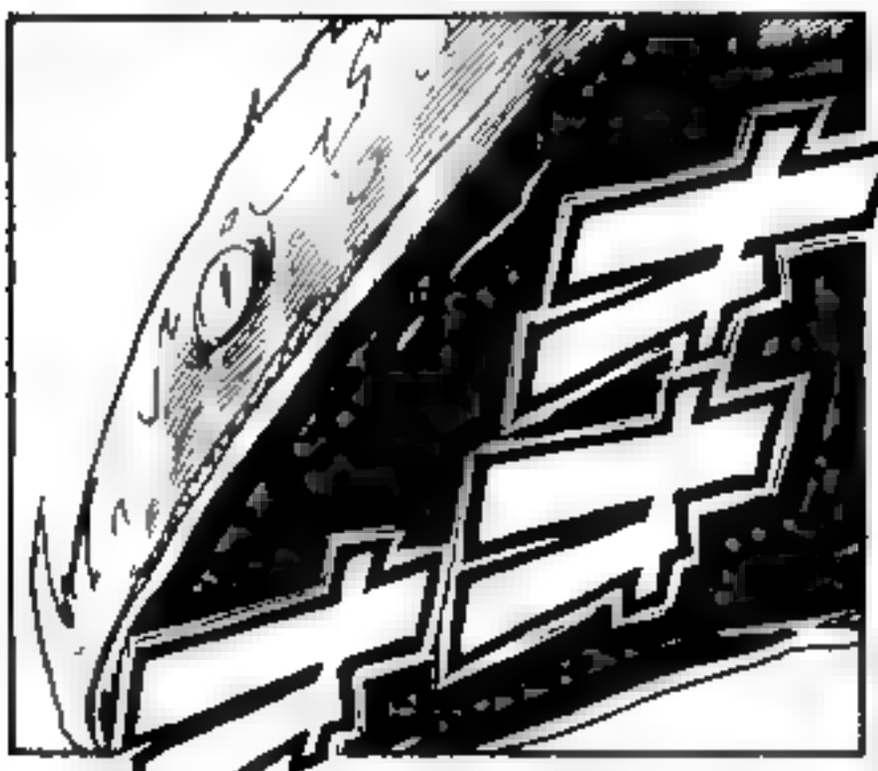
...

Shit ...

I'm running out of air.

There!
!

?!!



These monsters again... and here of all places !?
Damn it ...

...!!!

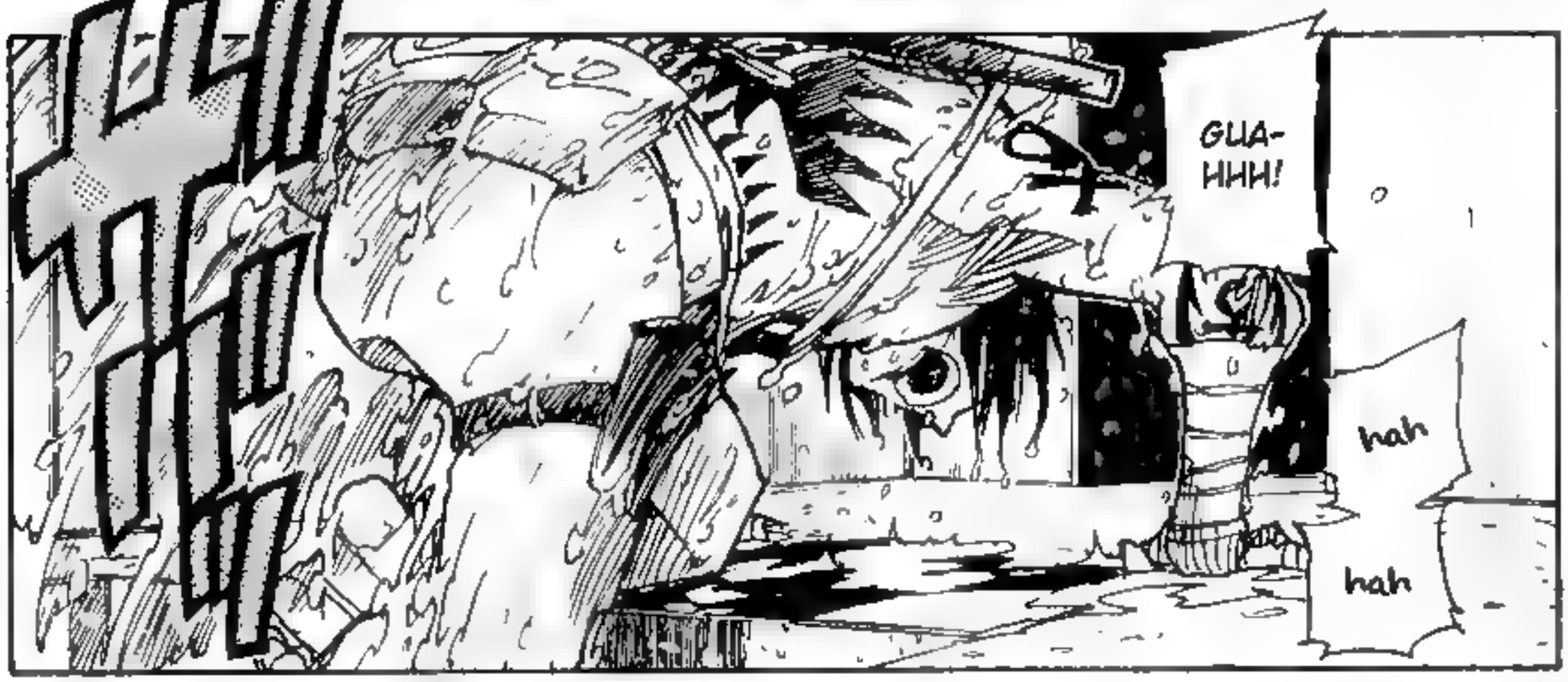
Unless ...

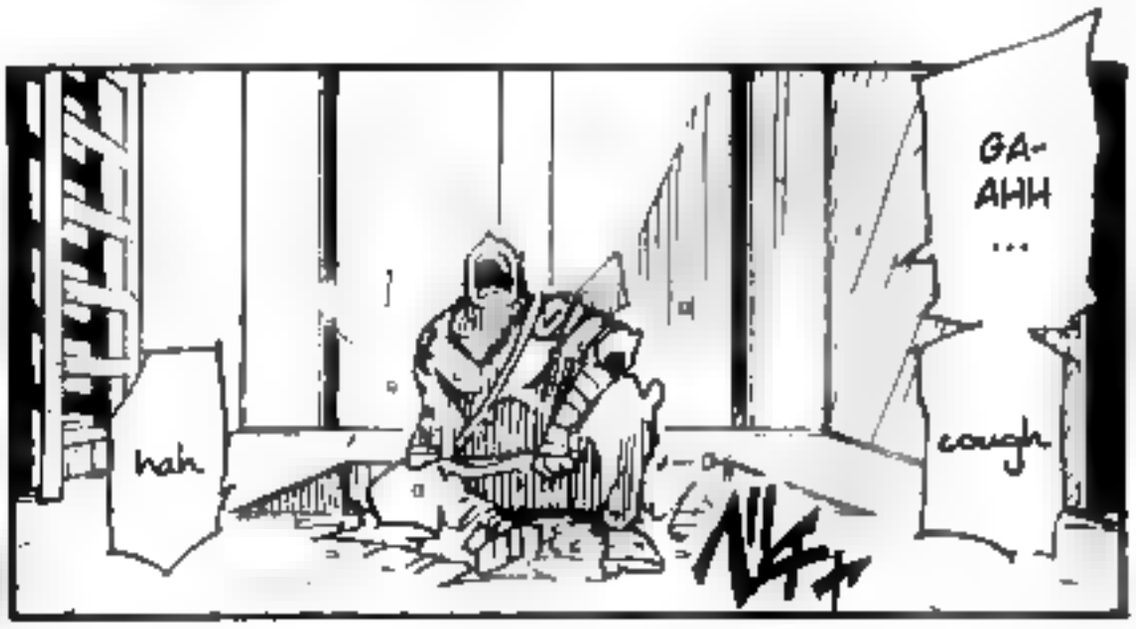
Under these circumstances, I won't survive ...

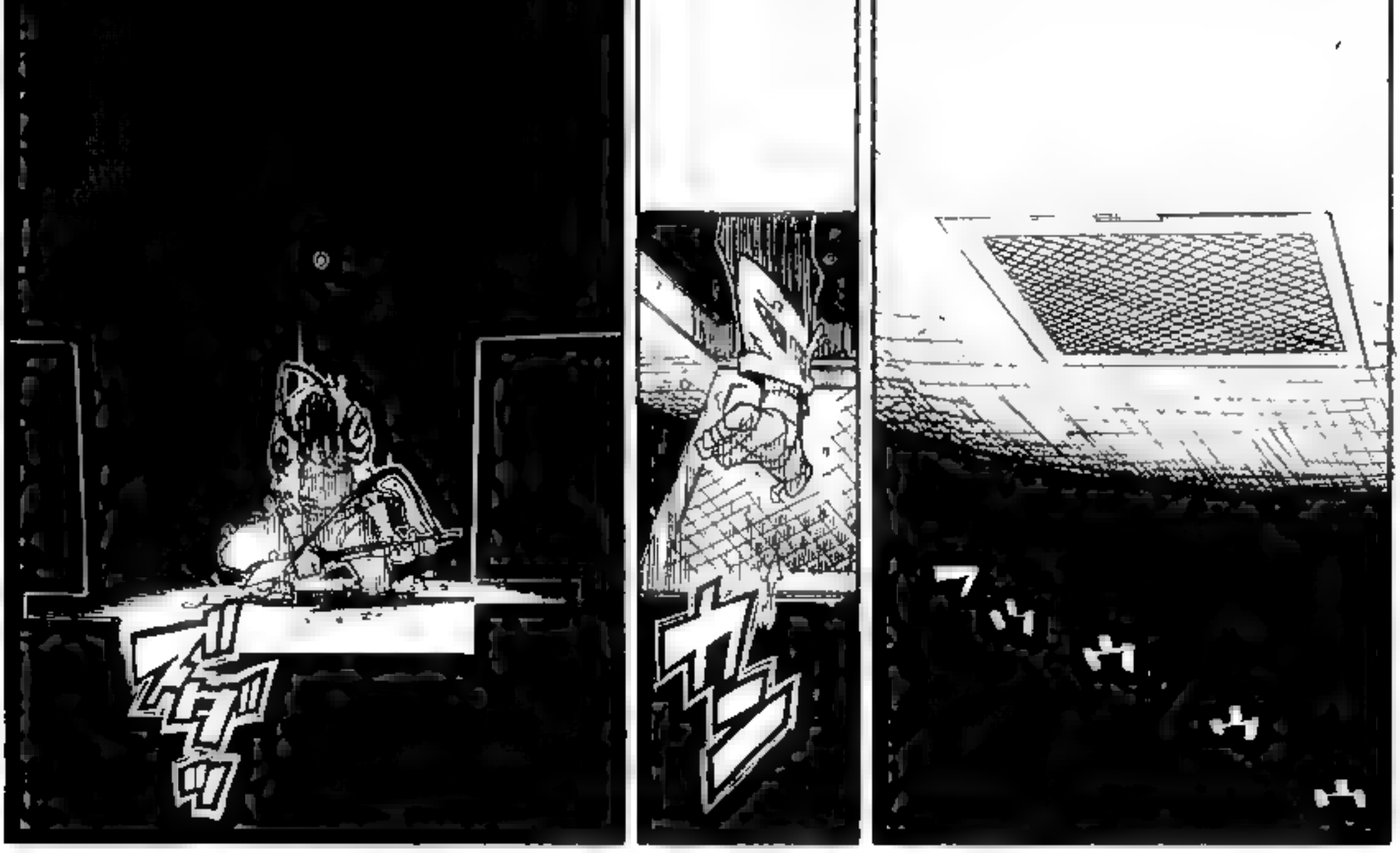
If I move too fast, I'm dead meat ...

They detect their prey by its movement.

!!!


GUA-
HHH!
hah
hah

hah
hah
H
R
R!

hah
GA-
AHH
...
cough



nah

HH
...
...

!!!

EXACTLY.

ZZZ

IS THIS HIS ROOM ...?

...

SHUT YOUR MOUTH!

YOU'LL HURT SOME-ONE.

HOW COME YOU GET FRIGHT-ENED SO EASILY?

YOU?

...!

YOU ALWAYS APPEAR OUT OF NOWHERE ...

LIKE THE LAST TIME ...

SILVER

Z"
Z"
Z"
Z"

AAA

I WON.

11 P
11 P

?!!

YOU'VE COME SURPRISINGLY FAR ...

... PRETTY GUY.

I'LL GRANT YOUR WISH AND YOU WILL GRANT MINE.

THE CONDI-TION IS ...

YOU WANT TO HEAR WHAT I HAVE TO SAY?

AND?

THAT WAS YOU!

FROM THE VEGAS RECORD-INGS. THE GIRL THAT SURVIVED IN SIBERIA.

HEH ...

I AL-READY KNOW!

... YOUR REAL ENEMY?

BUT TELL ME... IS MEDUSA ...

OH ...

I THOUGHT THAT NOBODY CARED ABOUT THAT ANYWAY.

... AND STILL YOU'VE SAID NOTHING.

YOU KNEW THE TRUTH ABOUT MEDUSA.

?!

BEEP

YOU ARE ...

I thought all security sensors were disco ...

A sensor?

BEEP BEEP

BEEP

BEEP

IPIP

IPIP

IPIP

IPIP

?!!

UP

UP

UP UP

UP
AAH...

...
HRR
..

ALO-
HAA-
AAA!

JIN-
GLE

ZEUS!

IT'S ARTI-FI-CIAL.

IGNORE THE SCE-NERY BEHIND ME ...

HEHE ...

SO? HOW DO YOU LIKE MY GAME?

HEEEY!

MARCO OWEN!

DON'T FUCK WITH ME!

BEEP

!

hah

hah

THIS CONVERSATION DOESN'T TAKE PLACE IN REAL TIME,

THESE IMAGES ARE GENERATED USING YOUR REACTIONS, WHICH ARE CAPTURED BY SENSORS.

POINTLESS.

POINTLESS.

?!

NICE SHOT!

...

IF ONLY YOU'D BEEN A BIT FASTER, YOU WOULD HAVE MET ME IN PERSON.

WHAT A SHAME.

POP

IF I REMEMBER CORRECTLY, YOUR ALIAS WAS FRANCIS MARCO.

YOU MANAGED TO OUTWIT MY SYSTEM. MAGNIFICENT WORK.

HEH ...

HE HE HE ...

I HAVE TO SAY, I WAS REALLY SURPRISED WHEN YOU APPEARED AT THE CASTLE.

...

WHAT'S WRONG, STEVE?

HM?

NO.

...

A PROBLEM WITH THE PATIENTS?

YOU'RE NOT THAT FRAIL, SMALL MARCO ANYMORE.

HE HE ...

REALLY!

...

YOU'VE TURNED INTO A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT PERSON.

?!

THE NUMBERS AT THE TOP OF THE IMAGE ...

CLICK

2008 09 23 12:46:

キュルル

STOP! WAIT A MINUTE!

... SEP- TEMBER ...

8 09 23

23 ...

EXACTLY!

MAYBE IT'S THE CAMERA'S SERIAL NUMBER OR ...

... THE DATE!

09 23 12

THE DAY WE GOT HERE AND WERE PUT IN THE CAPSULES ...

YES.

THE 23RD OF SEPTEM- BER?

...

...
THAT
...

BUT
...
THAT
MEANS
...

EVERY-
THING
...

...
AND EVERY-
THING THAT
HAPPENED
AFTER THAT
...

...
THE
ARMY'S
ATTACK
ON THE
CASTLE
...

...WE
WERE PUT
INTO THE
CASULES.

...
HAPPENED
ON THE
DAY
...

HA
HA
HA
HA
HA
!!!

AH
HA
HA
HA
HA
HA
!!!

...

SO? WHAT DO YOU THINK?

ISN'T IT A MASTER-PIECE =!

...

AND TRAINED HIS BODY FOR THAT PURPOSE, APPEARS IN FRONT OF ME RIGHT AT THIS MOMENT!

THE MAN WHO VOWED TO TAKE REVENGE ...

YOU ALWAYS MANAGED TO MAKE ME LAUGH!

SUCH A PATHETIC SCENE DOESN'T EVEN HAPPEN IN THE MOVIES!

HE HE ...

HM ...

... OWEN!

第111話

THE TATTOOS ON YOUR BACK. HIDE THEM.

...

THERE IS NO ONE HERE THAT KNOWS ABOUT YOU, BUT STILL, YOU NEVER KNOW ...

LET'S GO!

GROAN

WHAT IS IT?

... NOTH- ING ...

OH ...

RANTS

I just came back from "quick" peak at local con, so my mind isn't here, so... eh... boo?

I never have a proper rant for KoT. No idea why. Nerdy Marco was cute.

After my absence in the last rant, it certainly is a pleasure to appear again. I'm afraid I have nothing to contribute to your enjoyment, however I hope you had a nice read and look forward to the next chapter, which will be out next... anyway. It will be out... sometime... I hope.
PS: Don't ya hate rants?

Yay, my first commission! I actually spent all night working on this, so... be gentle with me! *whine*

I woke up too early again and now I don't know what to put for a rant. Um, it's the Easter Beagle Charlie Brown.

sigh

Everytime you don't read our releases a kitten dies.

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Chapter 21

The Bird In The Cage...

Part 1

SILENCE!

HEY!

HEY!

STEP AWAY FROM THE BARS!

IS THAT YOUR WIFE?

I SAID: SILEN-CE!

MWA HA HA!

OHO! WHO'S THE RUNT?

I'M GOING TO TAKE GOOD CARE OF YOUR SWEET LITTLE ASS!

COME HERE!

HEY YOU!

...

HEHE ...

IF YOU'RE LOOKING FOR TROUBLE, FIND SOMEONE ELSE!

HERE IT IS.

huff

huff

...

gulp

huff

...

huff

326

327

huff

328

329

...

huff

330

...

HE DOES SIT-UPS ALL DAY LONG.

CATCHAAA!

PRISONER NUMBER 6278

...

MARCO OWEN.

ガラガラガラ

331

huff

SLAM

huff

THERE'S A VISITOR FOR YOU.

COME OUT.

ゴオオオ

Name Marco O

Age 21

ht 182

YOU LOOK TOTALLY DIFFERENT IN THESE PICTURES.

ガチャ

ブオオ

...

6278

ゴォォ

ARE YOU REALLY OWEN?

...

YOU DON'T LOOK LIKE A COM-PUTER NERD AT ALL.

AND ALL THESE TATTOOS... ALL OF THAT IN JUST TWO YEARS AND FOUR MONTHS?

...

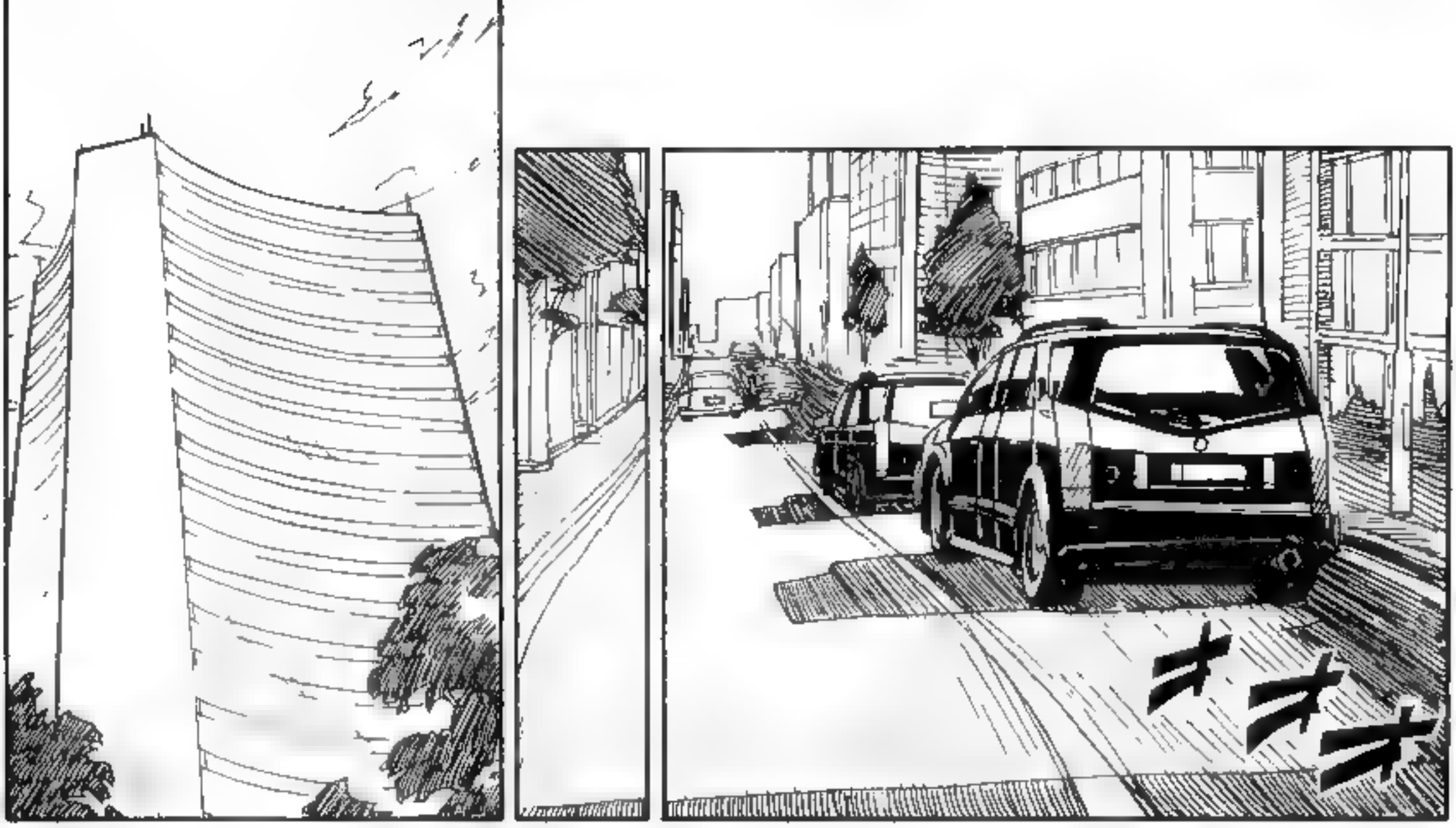
THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

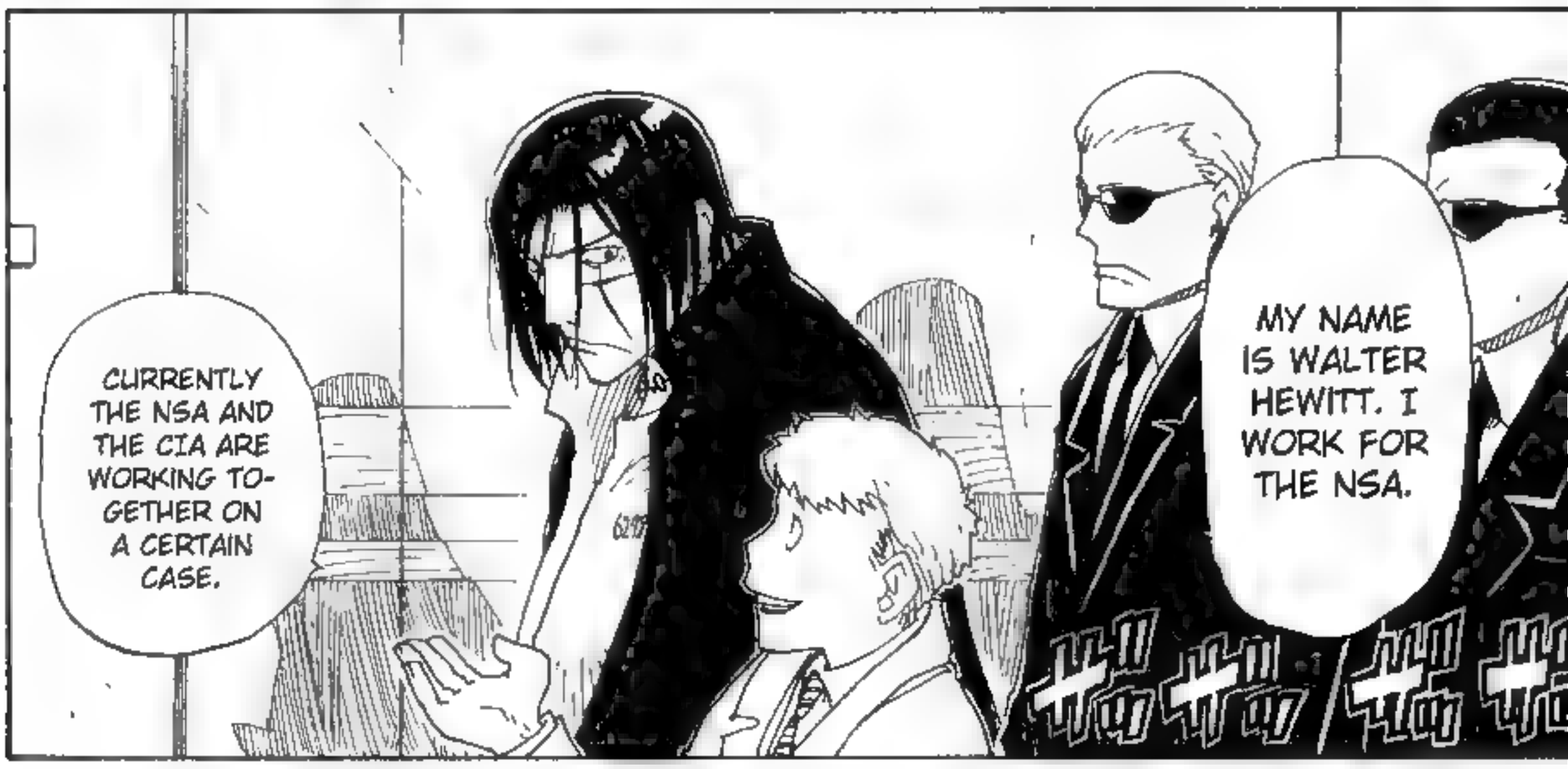
YOU LOOK MORE LIKE AN ERRAND BOY.

AND YOU DON'T LOOK LIKE A BIG SHOT EITHER.

WHO'S YOUR EMPLOY-ER?

YOU CAN GET A PRISONER OUT OF HERE WITHOUT GOING THROUGH THE OFFICIAL CHANNELS ...




CURRENTLY THE NSA AND THE CIA ARE WORKING TOGETHER ON A CERTAIN CASE.
MY NAME IS WALTER HEWITT. I WORK FOR THE NSA.

NO, IT'S NOT THAT SIMPLE.
THE CIA OPERATES UNDER THE COMMAND OF THE NSA?

THE IMPORTANCE OF THE MATTER AT HAND DEMANDS THIS COLLABORATION.

CIA?

...

THE PRESI-
DENT THOUGHT
I WAS THE MOST
QUALIFIED PERSON
AND ENTRUSTED
ME WITH THIS
CASE.

I
WAS
THE FIRST
ONE TO BE
INFORMED
ABOUT
THIS.

COME
IN.

I SEE.

THE FEELING OF BEING STARED AT BY COUNT-LESS EYES.

I HATE IT ...

...

THERE'S NOBODY HERE ...

YOU'RE RIGHT.

...

YOU ARE BEING OBSER-VED.

MINDOWS?

A FEW OF MY CELL-MATES DIED OF IT.

THE ONE THAT CAUSES THE BODY TO TURN INTO STONE?

HAVE YOU HEARD OF AN ILL-NESS CALLED THE MEDUSA SYNDROME?

...

THIP

I WILL NOW ASK YOU A FEW QUES-TIONS.

CSC 0020

IP...

?!

START

DO YOU KNOW THIS CASTLE?

tig tig

WASN'T IT ABOUT A MILLIONAIRE, WHO'S GATHERING MEDUSA PATIENTS FOR A CRYONICS PROJECT?*

YEAH, I KNOW IT. SAW IT ON THE NEWS.

THIS IS AN AERIAL PHOTO TAKEN FROM A BBC BROADCAST.

*THE EMERGING MEDICAL TECHNOLOGY OF CRYOPRESERVING HUMANS AND ANIMALS WITH THE INTENTION OF FUTURE REVIVAL.

IP...

ORIGINALLY IT WAS A SECT NAMED VENUS GATE.

YES, AN NGO* NAMED CSCC ...

ORGANI-SATION?

YOU ARE BASICALLY RIGHT. SIR HENRY PROVIDED THEM WITH FUNDS AND FACILITIES. BUT...

... ANOTHER ORGANISATION HAS CONTROL OVER THE PROJECT

*NGO: NONGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION

EVEN CHILDREN ARE IN IT?

THE PHOTO IS RATHER OLD THOUGH.

THEIR LEADER IS IVAN KAROL VEGA.

...THEY HAD A STRANGE EXPLANATION FOR IT.

...

EVEN BEFORE THE WORLD WAS AWARE OF MEDUSA, THEY KNEW ABOUT ITS EXISTENCE.

THEY WERE RIGHT... BUT...

...AND YOU EVEN GET ME OUT OF PRISON AT THE BEHEST OF THE PRESIDENT, JUST TO TELL ME THAT?

THE NSA AND CIA WORK TOGETHER ...

BULL-SHIT!

THEY POSTULATED THAT MEDUSA CAME FROM SPACE, AS AN INSTRUMENT OF GOD ...

YES... AND?

...TO TEST HUMANITY.

I DON'T WANT TO HAVE ANY-THING TO DO WITH IT!

SORRY, BUT TAKE ME BACK INTO THE PRISON.

I DON'T GIVE A SHIT THAT SOME WEIRD GROUP OF PSYCHOPATHS THOUGHT ABOUT HOW TO PISS OFF AMERICA.

NO, THAT'S ...

AND EVEN SO!

BUT ...

...!

WHAT IF I SHOW YOU THIS PICTURE?

COINCI-
DENTALLY,
THIS PHOTO
WAS TAKEN
IN THE
CSCC.

...!

RIGHT.

THE ONE WHO PUT ALL THE BLAME ON YOUR DOORSTEP AND DISAPPEARED WITHOUT ANY TRACE ...

THAT'S HIM.

ZEUS!

NOW DO YOU UNDERSTAND THE SEVERITY OF THE SITUATION?

IS *THAT* WHAT YOU'RE IMPLYING?

HE'S INVOLVED IN THIS?

OUT WITH IT.

...

TELL ME WHAT I HAVE TO DO.

TAKE A LOOK AT THIS.

カタ カタ

IT HAS ITS OWN ELECTRICAL AND WATER SUPPLY, AND ALL THE OTHER SYSTEMS ARE AUTONOMOUS AS WELL.

THIS MAKES EXTERNAL ACCESS IMPOSSIBLE.

ONE OF OUR SPIES REPORTED THAT THERE IS A COMPLEX LOCATED THERE, NAMED "LEVEL 4" ...

RECONNAISSANCE PICTURES FROM A SPY SATELLITE.

THERE'S A HUGE SPACE CLEARLY VISIBLE BENEATH THE CASTLE.

WELL, AT LEAST THIS FACILITY IS NOT FOR THE CURE OF MEDUSA.

A BUNKER?

YES, THEY GATHERED EVERY EXISTING GENETIC MATERIAL ON EARTH IN THAT FACILITY.

NOAH'S ARK?

...THEN A FITTING TERM FOR IT WOULD BE A NOAH'S ARK.

IF WE THINK ABOUT WHAT THEY'VE ALREADY STORED IN THERE ...

...AND THEY THEN MAKE THEM HAPPEN USING THEIR OWN DOOM SCENARIOS.

BECAUSE A LOT OF SECTS CREATE THEORIES ABOUT THE APOCALYPSE

...

THIS ALONE MAKES THEM A THREAT TO US.

...

BUT THERE IS ONE PROBLEM ...

WE DECIDED TO ATTACK THE COMPLEX IMMEDIATELY TO FREE THE PATIENTS WHO WERE BROUGHT THERE UNDER FALSE PRETENCES.

SO IS MEDUSA THEIR DOING?

IT'S HIGHLY POSSIBLE, YES.

EXACTLY!

ZEUS!

NOW IT'S YOUR TURN, OWEN.

IPHIII

AND WE DON'T HAVE THE MEANS TO BYPASS IT.

THE SECURITY SYSTEM THAT HE INSTALLED SEALED OFF LEVEL 4 OFF HERMETICALLY.

...

SO? DO YOU AGREE TO GO?

"You will never ... reach me."

YOU KNOW HIM AND YOU ARE CURRENTLY THE ONLY HACKER ...

... WHO IS ON PAR WITH HIM.

OF COURSE!

10%

THE OPERATION WILL TAKE PLACE ON THE 23RD OF SEPTEMBER.

...

THEY SELECTED EVEN CRIMINALS INTO THEIR PROJECT?

OTHERWISE IT WOULD'VE BEEN DIFFICULT ...

YES, WE GOT LUCKY!

YOU WILL INFILTRATE THE FACILITY AS A PATIENT NAMED FRANCIS MARCO.

...

THE 160 PATIENTS WILL ARRIVE AT THE CASTLE TO ENTER THEIR COLD SLEEP CAPSULES ON THIS DAY.

FRANCIS.

DESPITE YOUR LIFE SENTENCE, YOU HAVE A GOOD REPUTATION,

HE'S RESPONSIBLE FOR YOUR SAFETY AND WILL BE WAITING FOR YOU.

I WAS EXPECTING YOU.

OH!

INSIDE THE FACILITY, YOU WILL MAKE CONTACT WITH OUR AGENTS.

...

SO YOU ARE FRANCIS MARCO.

HA HA HA!

I RECOGNIZED YOU IMMEDIATELY.

MY NAME IS BILLY OAKLAND, I'LL BE TAKING CARE OF YOU.

...

THE HANDCUFFS ARE NOT NECESSARY ANYMORE

YOU CAN TAKE THEM OFF.

WORLD TIMES

DON'T EVEN THINK ABOUT ESCAPING!

THE PREPARA-TIONS ARE COMPLETE

HOW IS THIS HACKER? WILL HE MANAGE?

...

HEWITT.

I'M SURE OF THAT.

REALLY?

AND EVEN IF HE DOESN'T ...

...

WE STILL HAVE A FINAL OPTION.

ON BOARD!

OKAY!

NOW IT'S ALL IN YOUR HANDS, OWEN.

DON'T MAKE ME USE OUR FINAL OPTION.

...

THE OPERATION WILL START IMMEDIATELY AFTER WE RECEIVE THE SIGNAL FROM THE ARK!

PRETTY HECTIC AROUND HERE ...

WHAT HAPPENED?

WELL ...

EXCUSE ME!

PLEASE MOVE OUT OF THE WAY!

...

QUICK!

IT SEEMS THERE ARE A FEW PEOPLE WAITING FOR A PATIENT TO RELINQUISH HIS PLACE

HAPPENS QUITE OFTEN

OFTEN?

AS SOON AS THERE'S A FREE PLACE, THE REPLACEMENT WILL BE CHOSEN RANDOMLY.

SOME PATIENTS GET SO DESPERATE BECAUSE OF IT, THAT THEY TRY TO KILL THEMSELVES ...

STAY SHARP!

EVEN THOUGH THERE ARE NO MICROPHONES HERE, THERE ARE A LOT OF CAMERAS ..

...

SILVER

HERE.

SHOULD I EXPLAIN HOW THIS WORKS?

IT'S NOT NECES-SARY.

CLACK

...

ONLY GLASSES AND HEARING DEVICES ARE ALLOWED INSIDE THE CAPSULES.

EXCEPT FOR YOUR ID-CARD AND THE BRACELET ...

PHOOO

OH! HELLO, FRANK!

HEY, BILLY

...

RATHER, YOU SHOULD TELL ME WHAT TO DO NEXT ...

BUT HE FAILED.

A LITTLE WHILE AGO SOMEONE TRIED TO DOWNLOAD THE DATA.

LEVEL 4'S SYSTEM IS COMPLETELY INDEPEN-DENT FROM THE OTHER LEVELS.

EVEN WITH A LEVEL 3 ACCREDITATION, THE ACCESS TO ITS DATA IS DENIED.

!

THE ROOM WITH THE COLD SLEEP CAPSULES.

...

AND WE CAN ACTUALLY GET IN ...

THERE'S ONLY ONE PLACE WHERE WE CAN ACCESS LEVEL 4 ...

IMPOS-SIBLE.

AS SOON AS THEY ENTER THE CAPSULES, THE PATIENTS ARE PRACTICALLY IMPRISONED ...

SO WE'LL GET ACCESS FROM WITHIN THE CAPSUL-ES?

ALL 160 CAPSULES ARE CONNECTED TO LEVEL 4.

...

BUT ALSO TO THE ROOM WITH THE CAPSULES AND TO LEVEL 4.

IN A WAY IT IS THE CSCC'S BACKBONE.

THIS CENTRAL ELEVATOR DOESN'T ONLY GO DOWN TO THE USUAL LEVELS

THE 160 CAPSULES ARE SITUATED DIRECTLY BEHIND THIS WALL.

3 2 1 B1 B2

UNDER-STOOD ...

...

OKAY.

... HACK INTO THE TERMINAL AND GRANT US ACCESS TO LEVEL 4.

TAAK

YOU WILL LEAVE THE ELEVATOR THROUGH THE CEILING AND DESCEND TO THE LOWEST LEVEL ...

THE BIRD IS IN THE CAGE.

SING

...

BEEP

IT'S STAR-TING!

THE BIRD IS IN THE CAGE.

10年ぶり

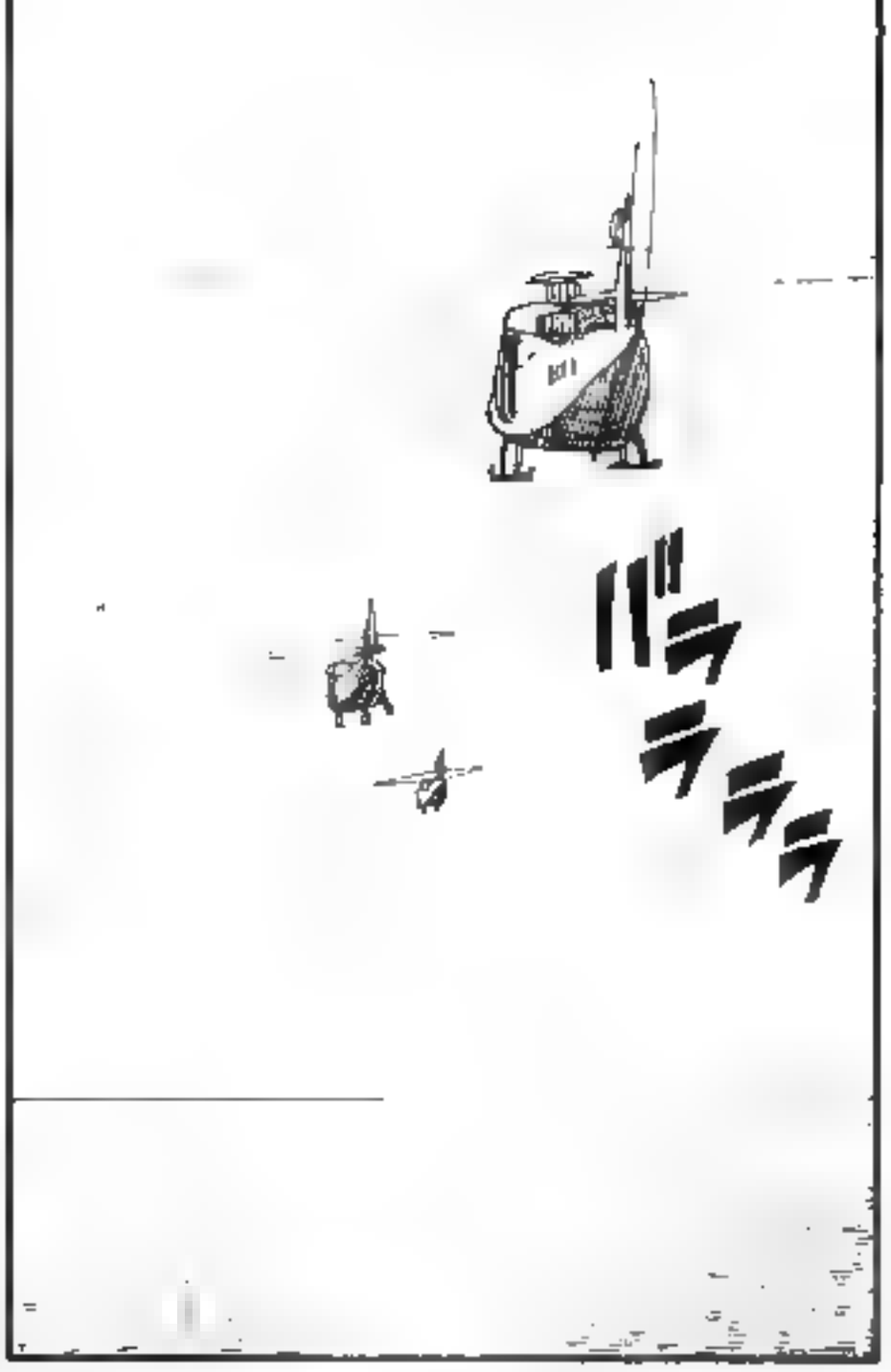
ヒュヒュヒュ

615/NAVY

ドドドド

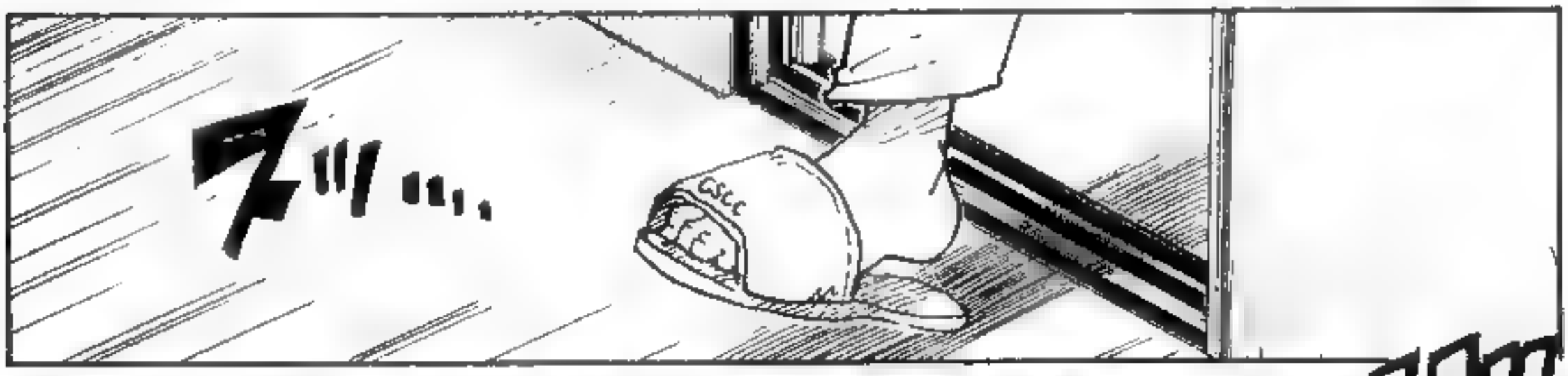
OKAY, LIFT OFF!

I'LL COME WITH YOU!



IT WILL LAST FOR FIFTEEN SECONDS.
TO PREVENT THE CAMERAS FROM RECORDING THIS OPERATION ...
...WE WILL INDUCE A POWER OUTAGE AT THE MOMENT THE ELEVATOR DOOR OPENS.

THAT'S MORE THAN ENOUGH.



EH?
WHAT ...?!
?!

...

And go!

HUH

Here!

BAKK

...

A POWER OU-TAGE?

STAY CALM!

THE CAPSULES HAVE THEIR OWN POWER SOURCES. NO NEED TO WORRY!

...!

HERE'S THE CONTROL ROOM ...

...?!

WHAT'S GOING ON? WE LOST THE IMAGE!

Three seconds left!

Quick!

One...

Two...

whup

...!

...!

ピ
ピ
ピ
ピ
ピ
ピ
ピ
ピ
ピ
ピ
CONTROL ROOM REPORTING ...
WHAT IS IT?
?!
...!
I SEE, I SEE ...
BUT NOW EVERYTHING'S BACK TO NORMAL.
OH... UHH... WELL ...
THERE WAS A SHORT POWER OUTAGE IN SECTION C ...
huff
...
BAPAM
PHEW!

GOOD ...

NOT NECES-SARY.

JUST CONTI-NUE.

...

NEVER MIND.

SHOULD WE INVES-TIGATE THE MATTER?

EH?

ROGER THAT.

ETETET

I just came back from "quick" peak at local con, so my mind isn't here, so, eh... boo?

yal is to be blamed for everything that is wrong in this world including global warming. BEWARE!

Another KoT chapter, did ya know that in german "Kot" means "shit"? shitty pun or? well have fun with this crap, hihihihi. NOT FUNNY!

For some reason this took forever and the line "You're an errand boy, sent by grocery clerks, to collect a bill" was stuck in my head throughout the entire thing.

Dude, third release of the day man, pretty noxxor no?

Not much to say really. QC took a bit longer than I had hoped because I'm in the middle of my finals but here it is anyway. Appreciate it!

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Chapter 22

The Bird In The Cage... Part 2

STILL 23 METERS TO GO ...

IS YOUR CASTLE DOWN THERE, ZEUS?

JUST WAIT AND SEE!

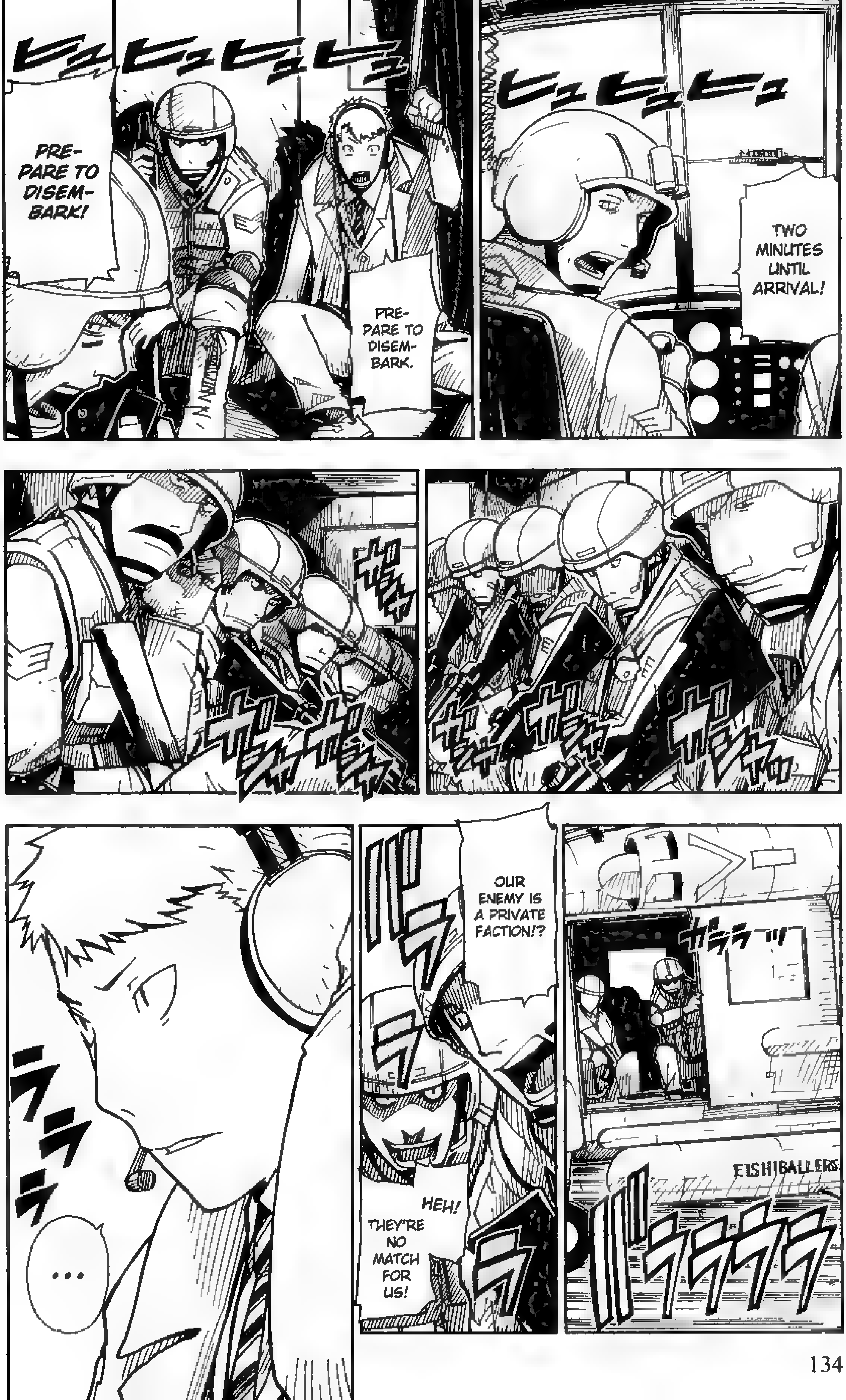
TODAY I WILL SURPASS YOU!

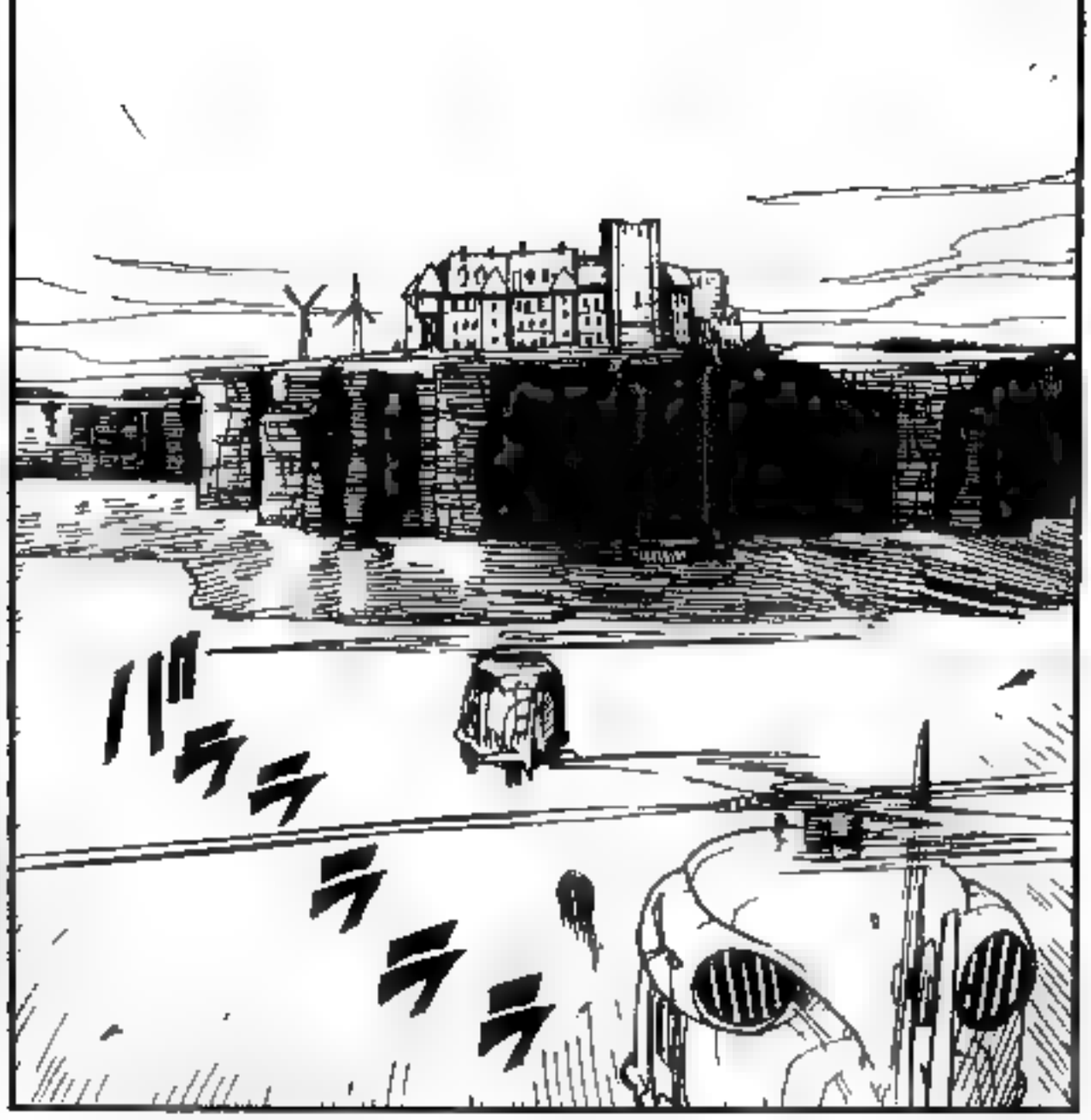
PLEASE CALM DOWN AND GO BACK TO YOUR SEATS.

THE FUNCTIONALITY OF THE CAPSULES WON'T BE AFFECTED.

WE ARE INVESTIGATING THE REASON FOR THE BLACKOUT.

NO NEED TO WORRY.


TWO MINUTES UNTIL ARRIVAL!
PRE-PARE TO DISEM-BARK.
PRE-PARE TO DISEM-BARK!
EISHIBALLERS
OUR ENEMY IS A PRIVATE FACTION!?
HEH!
THEY'RE NO MATCH FOR US!
...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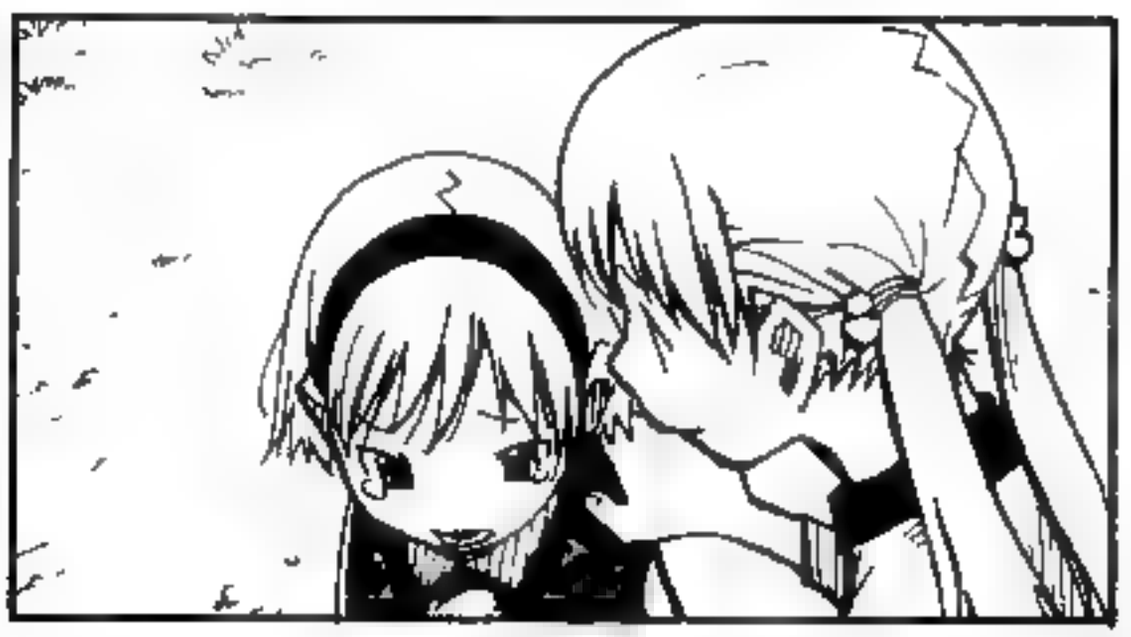
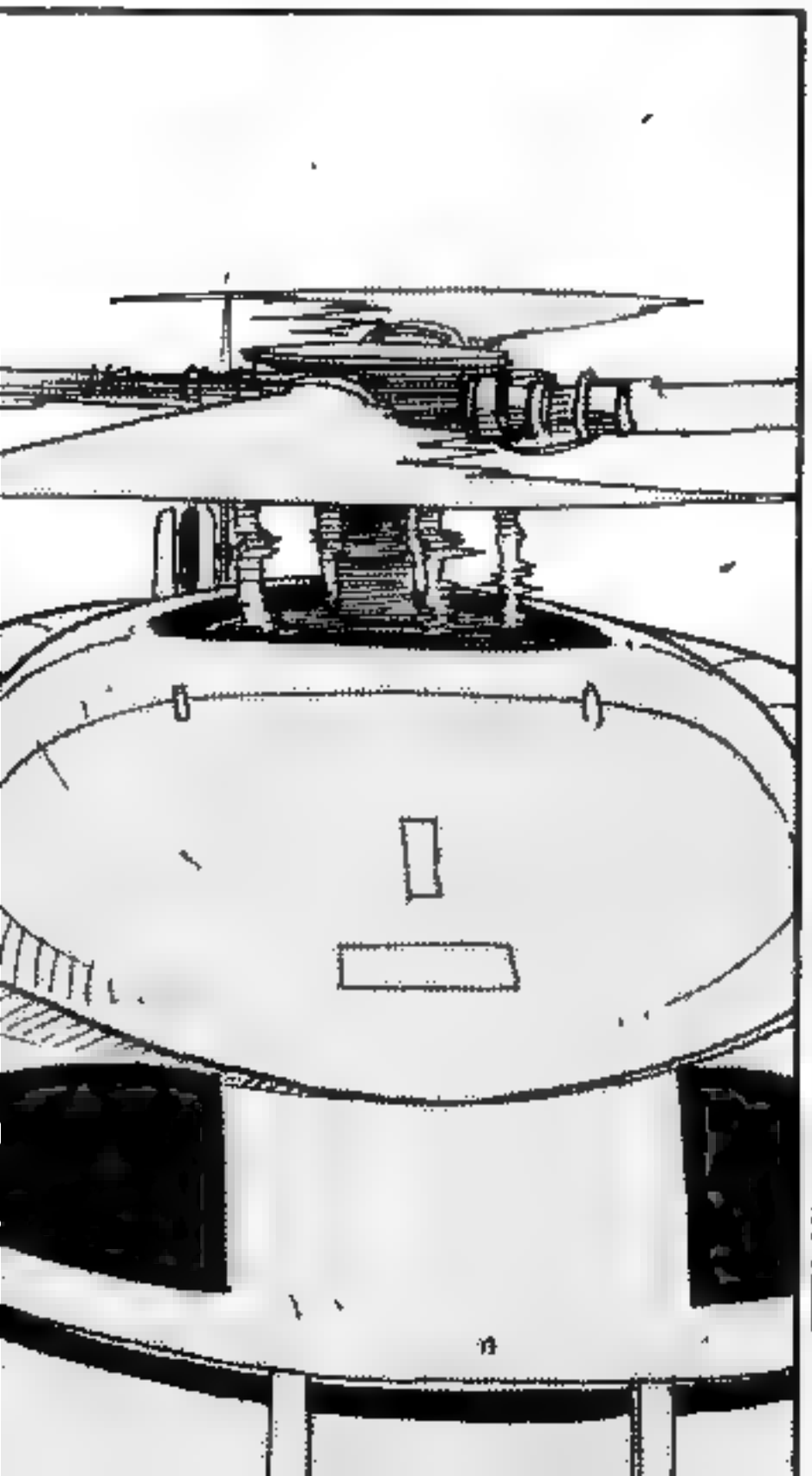




RIGHT NOW, THE 96TH PATIENT IS ENTERING THE CAPSULE.
I BELIEVE WE'LL BE FINISHED BY 1800 HOURS.
EVERYTHING IS ON SCHEDULE.

AND?
HOW GOES THE ACCOMMODATION OF THE PATIENTS?

バラララララ

WHAT ...

バラララ

?

WE HAVE TO GIVE THE CIVILIANS AND THE LOWER CSCC STAFF THE OPPORTUNITY TO ESCAPE.

WE DON'T HAVE THE TIME!

SHOULDN'T WE WAIT FOR THE "BIRD" TO CONTACT US?

START THE RAP-PEL!

GO! GO! GO!

ROGER

WE CAN'T ALLOW THEM TO TAKE ANY HOSTA-GES!

TEAMS A AND B WILL ES-CORT THE CIVILIANS TO THE COURT-YARD.

TEAM E WILL SECURE THE CAPSULE ROOM AND STORM LEVEL 4 IMMEDIATELY AFTER RECEIVING CONFIRMATION FROM THE "BIRD".

TEAMS C AND D WILL HANDLE THE CSCC STAFF AND PREVENT THEIR ES-CAPE!

NAVI 615 HS-7

ARGHHH!

!?

!?

DAMN IT!

...

THE U.S. NAVY ...

615 HE-7 NAVY

ドゥン

kap

ジャキ

Jump

ジャキ

HUH!?

WHAT!?

...

WHAT'S GOING ON?

ジャキ

...!

!?

ｷﾝ

ｷﾝ

ｷﾝｷﾝｷﾝ

THIS IS THE U.S. NAVY!

ｷﾝ

ｷﾝ

ｷﾝ

ｷﾝ

FOLLOW OUR INSTRUCTIONS!

...

HANDS BEHIND YOUR HEAD! GET DOWN ON THE GROUND!

DON'T DO ANY-THING STUPID.

COME OUT IN-TO THE CORRI-DOR, ONE AT A TIME!

RESIS-TANCE IS USE-LESS!

WELL DONE!

TEAM C REPORTING IN! THE CONTROL ROOM IS SECURED.

...

Owen.

The rest is up to you now...

SO, LEVEL 4 IS BEHIND THIS DOOR?

KEEP

whap

AM I SUPPOSED TO HAND IT OVER TO SOME SUPER-POWER?

DAMN ...

THE TERMI-NAL IS ...

!

IT'S MINE!

...!

GHH ...

WHAT'S STEVE DOING?

MISTER VEGA!

GOOD ...

ピンポンパンポーン

DON'T LET ANYONE THROUGH HERE!

YES, SIR!

ピンポーン

!

...

...ISN'T MOVING !?

WHAT'S GOING ON?

THE ELEVA-TOR ...

ナイ...

...?

HUH?

...BUT I CAN'T REACH THEM!

I'VE TRIED TO CONTACT THEM THE WHOLE TIME ...

EH?

NOTHING ...

OH NO!

ARE WE LOCKED UP HERE ...!?

EVERY-THING IS FINE WE ARE CURRENT-LY CONTACTING SECURITY VIA INTRANET ...

THIS SECTION WAS CUT OFF FROM THE LOWER LEVELS.

IT DOESN'T SEEM THAT WAY.

EH EH

WHY DOESN'T ANYONE ANSWER?

EVERYTHING SHOULD BE UNDER CONTROL!

WHAT !?

I'D BETTER HURRY.

SILVA

TH

TH

WE WILL SEARCH FOR A DIFFERENT ROUTE.

NO!

STAY THERE AND HOLD YOUR POSITION!

TEAM E REPORTING! THE ELEVATOR ISN'T WORKING!

FF

!!

CELL

IPO

IPO

IPO

LOOK WHAT I FOUND!

UHH ...

WALTER!

TEAM C WILL SEARCH FOR A DIFFERENT ROUTE!

LEVEL 4

Billy Takamura

ID 19B326WBC28

HE'S THE ONLY ONE WE FOUND.

...

WHAT DO YOU PLAN TO DO ON LEVEL 4?

FOR WHAT PURPOSE?

HE'S SAYING THAT THEY BROUGHT A PATIENT TO LEVEL 4 JUST BEFORE THE ATTACK.

IS THAT TRUE?

A PATIENT?

WHAT?

I DON'T WANT TO GO BACK THERE!

NO!

N...

TAKE US TO LEVEL 4!

HURRY UP! LET'S GO!

!?

!?

WHAT'S HAPPE-NING!?

STEVE! WHERE ARE YOU!?

†111

†111

†111

S T E V E!

S T E V E !?

HOW COULD YOU NOT NO-TICE THE U.S. NAVY ATTACK-ING?

WHERE IS EVERY-ONE?

HRR ...

!?

STE- ...

I AM ENJOY-ING AN OPERA.

AN OPE-RA?

STEVE ...!?

WHAT ARE YOU DOING!? THE FACILITY IS IN A STATE OF EMER-GENCY!

HAH!

THAT ...

THAT IS...

!!

AGGH

UUAAHH!!

ｱﾘﾘ ｱﾘﾘ

THEY ARE OFF-LINE!

SWITCH OFF THE SYS-TEMS!

ｱﾘﾘ ｱﾘﾘ ｱﾘﾘ

...AND SEARCHES FOR NEW PREY...

THEN SHE MANIFESTS THEIR FEARS IN CORPO-REAL FORM ...

MEDUSA IS DEVOURING THEIR BODIES ALONG WITH THEIR FEARS.

DID YOU FIND IT?

DID ...

AND TO MAINTAIN SUCH A FORM APPEARS TO BE DIFFICULT, AS YOU CAN SEE.

きゃあああ

うわあああ

ああ

BUT THE FEARS ONLY HAVE VAGUE SHAPES ...

HEHE ...

SHE'S EVEN MORE POWERFUL THAN ALICE.

THE NEW SOURCE?

BUT WHAT IF I WERE TO CONTROL HER WITH MY PRO-GRAM?

SO FAR SHE WAS ONLY ABLE TO CREATE THESE KIND OF SHAPES ...

...AND SHE'S TRYING TO MAINTAIN THEM..

TOO LATE.

CLICK

THERE ARE STILL PEOPLE IN THE ROOM ...

WA... WAIT!

!?

!?

!?

ガガ

ガガ

ガガ

ガガ

ガガ

ガガ

ガガ

ガガ

ガガ

ガガ

?

?

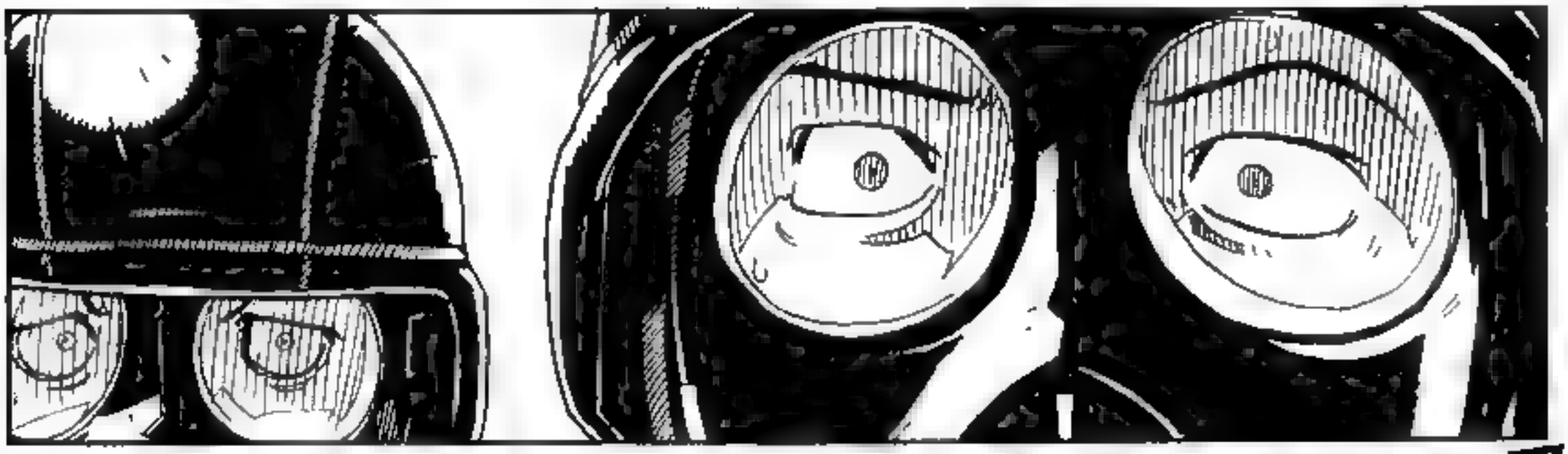
WHAT ...

...IS THAT?

...

ゴゴゴ

Fff...



UARRRGHHH!!
!?

...

ピピピピピピピピ

ピピピピピピピピ

TEAM C!

TEAM C, WHAT'S HAPPEN-ING?

THE DOOR OPEN-ED!

AH ...

ガチャ

!

ゴゴゴゴゴゴゴゴ

FI-NALLY ...

...!

WE ARE SAVED ...

...

REPORT!

TEAM C
...

TEAMS D AND E! WHAT'S GOING ON?

UHA AAA AHH!!

IAA ARGH HHH!!

NO ONE WILL BE ABLE TO ESCAPE NOW. NO ONE!

WHAT-EVER YOU WANT TO TRY, IT'S TOO LATE!

HUAH ...

HAHA HAHAHA HAHAHA HA!

GOD IS DEAD. THE DEVIL WAS BORN.

THE LAST *MOMENTS* OF MAN-KIND HAVE BEGUN.

十川川

WHAT THE HELL DID YOU DO IN THERE !?

WHAT IS HAPPEN-ING IN THERE!?

TELL ME!

ゴゴゴ

!?

WHAT ...?

ゴゴゴゴ

ドラッ

...!

ゴキゴキ

ゴゴゴゴ

ゴ"

バキ

バキ

ズゴゴ

ズゴゴ

ドゴオオオオ

ドドド

ドドド

TREMBLE WITH FEAR!

ALL YOU PEOPLE, CRAVING FOR AMUSEMENT AND ENTER-TAINMENT!

HOW LONG WILL YOU BE ABLE TO SUR-VIVE?

YOU WILL HAVE TO FIGHT ENEMIES THAT DEVOUR OUR FEARS, AND WHOSE NUMBERS INCREASE AND EVOLVE BECAUSE OF IT.

I BRING YOU THE ULTIMATE ENTERTAIN-MENT!

...THEN THAT ALONE WILL BE ENOUGH FOR THEM TO FIND YOU.

...AND SHOW BUT A GLIMPSE OF FEAR ...

DAMN ...

IF YOU DECIDE TO TRY ESCA-PING ...

IF YOU DON'T WANT TO DIE, PICK UP YOUR SWORDS!

SO.

LET THE GAME BEGIN!

Exams, hmm... Damn them!

Fufu, everyone's got exams! Ballzy too! But it was a midterm and it was cake. GIMME SHELTER.

Mmm... busy with my new job + living in cali!

lol, page 141, 1st panel, "NAVI", followed by "the U.S. navy...". You tend to notice a hell of a lot more when working on a manga than you do when just reading it quickly. This, in turn, gives birth to a lot of good theories about the plot. Not that "NAVI" has any plot relevance...I think.

We desperately need full time cleaners for all of our projects! Drop us a line by email or on the forums if you're interested!

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Translated by yal. Proofread by Sledhr and Ville 77. Cleaned by Aladar and Devin. Typeset by Ballzy. QC by LokiarOgar, Devin and Sledhr.

strays.devserver.org
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Chapter 23

The Bird In The Cage... Part 3

WHAT
...IS THAT
...

NO ...
NOOO!
UAHH!

ガヤ
ガヤ

ゴゴゴ

AAAAH!

HAAAH!

DO EVERY-THING WITHIN YOUR POWER TO SURVIVE.

YES, FLEE. FLEE.

YOU CAN'T ALLOW THIS TO HAPPEN!

plop

THERE'S A HERETIC IM-PERSONATING YOU.

MY GOD.

OUR FATHER, WHICH ART IN HEAVEN ...
...BUT DELIVER US...

...US FROM ...
splat!

ドチャ

GRRR

ドチャ

AAAAAHH!

ダタタタ

ゴゴゴ

WALTER...
WALTER!
...
WALTER!
HUH?
...
GHH...
DAMN IT!
EVEN IF THERE ARE STILL PATIENTS IN THERE!
WE HAVE TO USE IT! IMMEDIATELY!
BOTH MYSELF AND MY OFFICERS ARE IN AGREEMENT.
THE FINAL OPTION...

CAP-
TAIN.

HM?

I WANTED TO AVOID USING THE FINAL OPTION, OWEN ...

UNDER-
STOOD.

YES ...

I'M LISTEN-
ING. ...

THE SUPREME COMMA-
NDER.

A RECENTLY DEVELOPED TYPE OF MIS-
SILE DESIGNED TO DESTROY UNDERGROUND TARGETS.

YES SIR! MAKING READY THE LAUNCH OF THE BUNKER BUSTER MISSILE!

GET READY TO LAUNCH THE NEW BUN-
KER BUSTER MISSILE!

ハハハ

ゴゴゴ

ゴゴゴ

IT HAS TO!

THAT WILL END THIS NIGHT-MARE!

CIB-79

ズキ

ワン

!?

ゴゴゴゴ

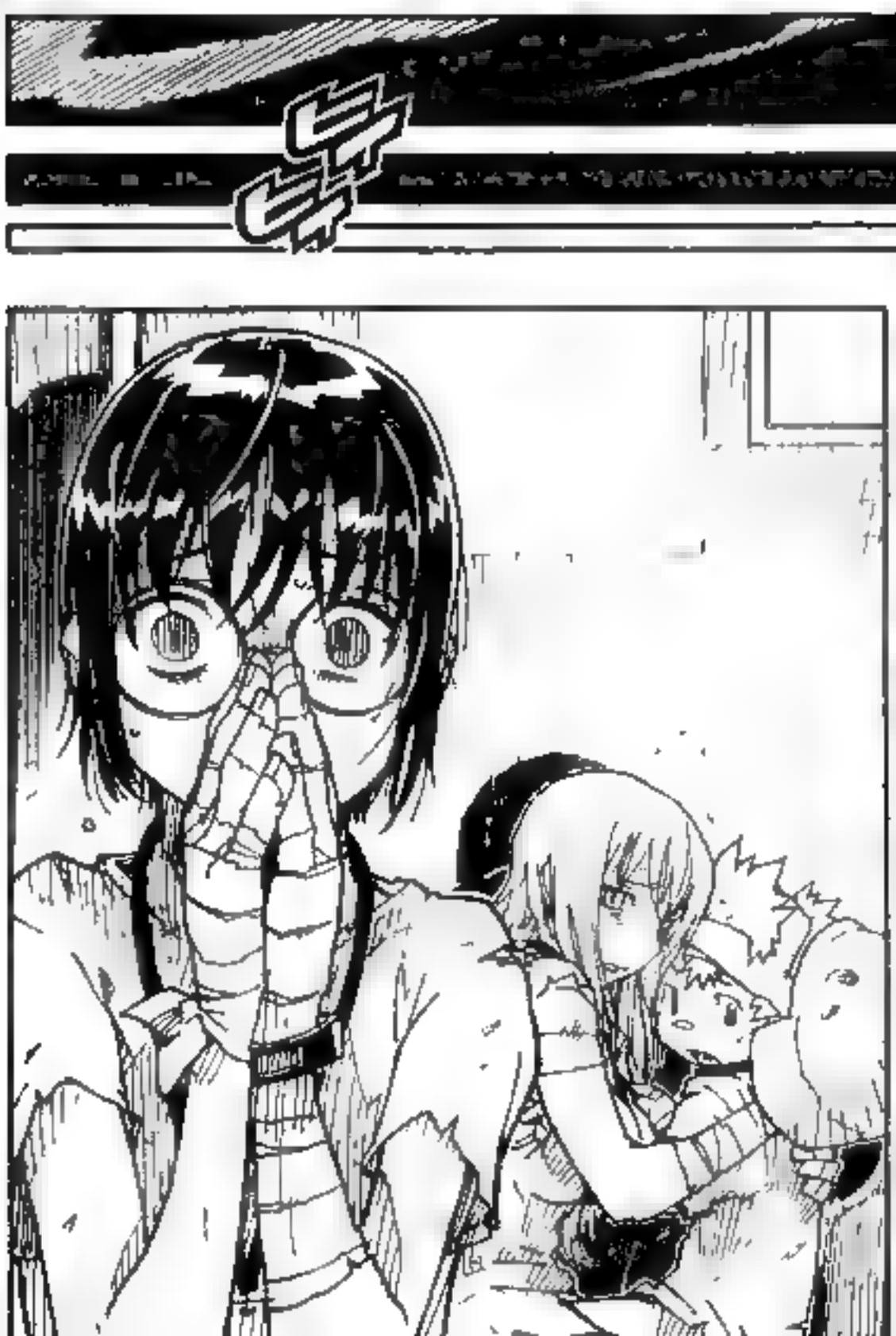
IT WAS DE-FLEC-TED?

WHAT ...?!

ゴゴゴゴ

... YOU'RE DEALING WITH?!

WHO DO YOU THINK ...



OH ...

... MY GOD ...

DING DONG

HE HE HE!

SO?

ACTUALLY, SINCE YOU MANAGED TO GET THIS FAR, YOU ALREADY KNEW WHAT WAS GOING ON, RIGHT?

...

DID YOU GET A GLIMPSE OF WHAT HAPPENED WHILE YOU WERE UNCONSCIOUS?

I KNOW YOU CAN HEAR ME!

STOP HIDING AND SHOW YOURSELF!

TCH.

ALSO THE TRUE NATURE OF MEDUSA AND ITS POWER.

HA HA HA!

IN ORDER TO GET A REACTION, YOU NEED TO SAY A KEYWORD.

POINTLESS.

A KEY-WORD ...?

ZEUS!

WHY ASK A QUESTION, WHEN YOU ALREADY KNOW THE ANSWER, MARCO.

OBJECTIVE?

WHAT IS YOUR OBJECTIVE?

I'VE TOLD YOU A THOUSAND TIMES ALREADY.

WHAT'S UP?

YOU ALWAYS WERE LIKE THAT ...

I WILL CREATE A GAME WHERE YOU NEVER GET BORED.

THE ULTIMATE ENTERTAINMENT.

BECAUSE THEY DON'T FEEL THE FEAR OF DEATH WHILE PLAYING.

PEOPLE GET BORED SO EASILY ...

WHAT A LOAD OF BULLSHIT!

AND THIS ALSO APPLIES FOR THIS WHOLE MODERN SOCIETY.

THEY DON'T FEAR THE DARK-NESS.

THEY LACK THE EXPERIENCE OF A REAL CONFRONTA-TION WITH DEATH, AND THE FIGHT FOR SURVI-VAL.

THE RE-SULT?

PEOPLE LOST THEIR FEAR OF THE DARK.

IT GAVE THE PEOPLE A FEELING OF SAFETY

SCIENCE HAS REMO-VED THE DARKNESS FROM HU-MANITY

AND BECAUSE OF THAT ...

IN THE MEANTIME, I EVEN GOT BORED WITH THE DARK SIDE OF SOCIETY.

THESE SKIR-MISHES THAT PEOPLE HAVE WITH EACH OTHER, THEY ARE NOT ONLY MEANINGLESS ...

...BUT ALSO BORING.

...
A NEW WORLD!

...
I OFFER HUMANKIND
...

I WILL TAKE THEIR LIGHT AND PULL OUT THEIR CLAWS. AND BEFORE THEY ARE ABLE TO REACT AND RESTORE THEIR OLD WAYS, I WILL SEND THEM MY CHILDREN.

I WILL RENDER THEIR HIGH-TECH WEAPONS USELESS
...
AND AT THE SAME TIME DESTROY THEIR POWER PLANTS AND COMMUNICATION CHANNELS.

KEEP OUT

...
JAPAN
...

TO FRANCE
...

AUS-
TRALIA

RUSSIA

CHINA

...
THE
USA.

PFT
...

?!

AND
EVEN
YOU,
MARCO
—

A
WON-
DERFUL
VISION,
ISN'T
IT?

IN MY
WORLD

...THE
PEOPLE ON
THIS PLANET
WILL LIVE IN
AGONY AND
FEAR.

!

SILVA

BEEP

...

ドン

ドン

ドン

ドン

ドン

?!

...

...!

ドン

ドン

!

ドン

ドン

...!

HHH

HHH

GHH ...

I COULD'VE KILLED YOU WHEN YOU REGAINED CONSCIOUSNESS, BUT I LET YOU LIVE. IT WASN'T JUST ONE OF MY MOODS.

キュウウウ

ズザザザ

！

ハンネス！！

キュウウウ

ゴゴゴゴゴ

キュルルルル

…

SHIT!

REMEMBER THAT, MARCO.

A HUGE NEWT?

NOTHING INTERESTING TO SEE, OTHER THAN THAT

キュルルルル

キュルルル

MARCO?!

?!

EVEN THOUGH HE TOLD ME THAT I WILL SEE THE SAME THING HE DID, BUT WHY ...

...

WHY IS MARCO ON THIS TAPE?

ZIP

NGH
...

ガシャーン

?!

WHAT IS THAT ...?!

...

SHIT
...

WHAT
...

WHAT HAP-PEN-ED?

I... WAS GOING TO HACK INTO THE COMPU-TER TER-MINAL AT LEVEL 4
...

!

ｺﾞｺﾞｺﾞ

...

ｺﾞｺﾞｺﾞ

?!

...

ﾌｧｧ

...

UN-CONSCI-OUS?

DAMN IT... HOW LONG WAS I...

FROM BACK THERE ...?

ｺﾞｺﾞｺﾞ

ｺﾞｺﾞｺﾞ

...

...!

OH MAN!

WHAT IS GOING ON ...?

...

LEVEL 4
...

LEVEL 4

...?

...!

...

SILVER

EVIL

...?!

ZEUS
...

WHO
...

IT'S TOO ...

... EARLY FOR THAT.

My body... so heavy ...

What ...

...can't reach him again...?

...

...

WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU ...

Damn it...

4

...

?

SHIZUKU ...?

TRY TO REACH ME!

COME ON, MARCO OWEN!

RANTS

As a response to my c22 rant, I already thought about Shizuku being the new source... mwhuahaha

Rant page space... Niiiice.
Oh yeah, FUCK THOSE DAMN TOMATOES.

I'm currently worshipping Emma Pollock for her first single... Everyone should listen to it- I mean it.

BLAME SIEDHR...ehh EXAMS!

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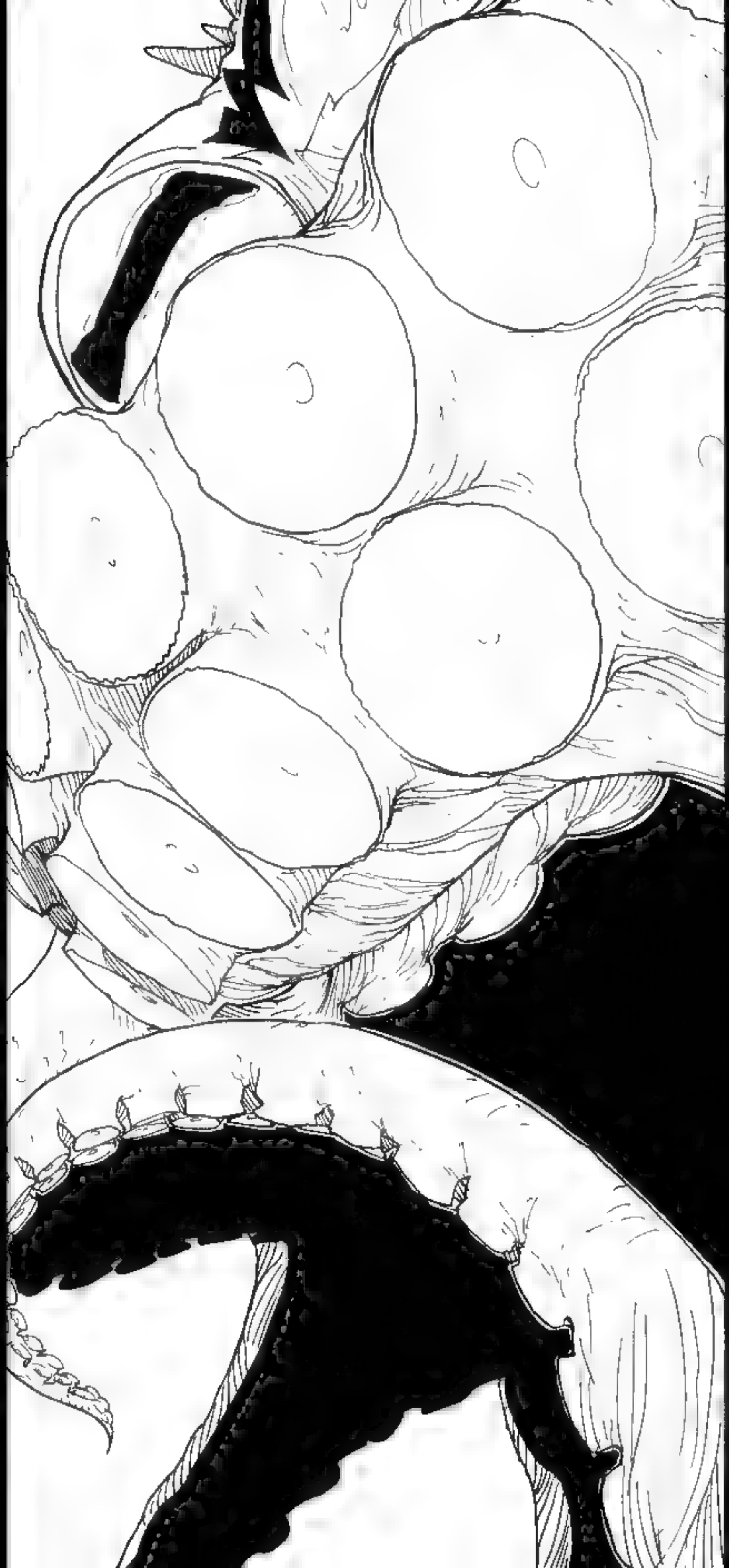

Chapter 24

Wounds

We are twins.

We were born at the same time and learned how to walk at the same time.

We also started ...

...and finished school together.

We always ate breakfast and dinner together ...

We always spent our holidays together ...

And that's why ...

...
I had
a vague
feeling
...

...that
we'll
also die
at the
same
time.

But
...

...?

IS THAT YOU?

...

SHI-ZUKU ...

WHY ...

SHI-ZUKU ...

HEY ...

WHAT'S UP?

KASUMI ...?

THAT'S YOU, ISN'T IT?

HUH?! WHAT?!

SORRY, I WAS A BIT ...

THAT'S YOU!

!

THAT'S SHIZUKU ...

N...

THAT'S NOT ME ...

NO ...

?!

YOU'VE BEEN ON LEVEL 4 ONCE BEFORE?

WE ARE TWINS.

...THAT'S HER.

NO DOUBT ABOUT IT!

SHE USED TO HAVE BRAIDS, BUT...

TWINS?

YES... BUT...

ONLY I WAS LUCKY ENOUGH TO WIN A PLACE ...

SHE ALSO SUFFERED FROM ME-DUSA?

YOU TWO LOOK IDENTI-CAL.

BUT WHY IS SHE COMING OUT OF LEVEL 4? I DON'T KNOW ...

...

I WAS THE ONE WHO EN-TERED ONE OF THE CAPSULES AND WAS ABLE TO SURVIVE ...

KASUMI ...

SHIZUKU ...

...I WOULDN'T HAVE TO THINK ABOUT ALL THOSE PAINFUL MEMO-RIES.

IF THEY HADN'T CHOSEN ME...

SO YOUR MEMORIES ARE FILLED WITH SOMEONE YOU LEFT BEHIND.

uhhh ...

uuh ...

...

...!

I'M AN ADULT ...

!

OUT OF THE THREE OF US, I'M THE ONE WHO HAS TO KEEP MY ACT TOGETHER.

GO AHEAD AND CRY.

DO IT NOW ...

...

...

LET IT ALL OUT. CRY...

OKAY ...

IT'S OKAY.

WE'VE HANDLED IT WELL SO FAR.

DO YOU KNOW HIM?

NO.

THE MAN RIGHT NEXT TO HER.

THE PROBLEM IS THIS PERSON THERE.

LOU

...

SHE LOOKS EXACTLY LIKE YOU ...

WHY DIDN'T MARCO SAY ANYTHING ABOUT THIS?

THE RECORD-ING ENDS HERE.

HE MUST HAVE THOUGHT YOU TWO WERE THE SAME PER-SON...

...

STRANGE ...

NO ...

DID YOU TELL HIM THAT YOU HAVE A TWIN SIS-TER?

...

HE DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING IN ORDER TO SEE YOUR REACTION.

OR MAYBE ...

...HE DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING BECAUSE HE THOUGHT YOU WERE HER.

I'M SURE HE DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING BECAUSE OF THAT.

ZZZ

ZZZ

ZZZ

ZZZ

ZZZ

ZZZ

...AND HE COVERED FOR YOU BY REMAINING SILENT.

...

HE THOUGHT YOU HAD CONNECTIONS WITH LEVEL 4 ...

HE SHOWED YOU THIS TAPE, SO YOU WOULD HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO FIND OUT THE TRUTH BY YOURSELF.

HE THOUGHT THE PERSON ON THE TAPE WAS *ME* ...?

...

...

PEOPLE ALWAYS SEEM TO DO THAT IN EMERGENCY SITUATIONS ...

シュルルル

ゴゴゴゴゴゴ

!?

ゴゴゴゴ

!?

ゴゴゴゴゴゴ

WHA
...

WHAT
...!?

AAAAAH!

ニュルルル

ニュルルルル

ズゥゥ

ズゥゥ

ズゥゥ

ズゥ

110

!?

SQUISH

SQUISH

LOOKS SOMEHOW DIFFERENT THOUGH ...

「ﾋﾟﾛﾛﾛ

AN OCTO-PUS?

「ﾋﾟｷｬｰ

!?

SHAAH!

ｽﾞｽﾞｽﾞ

「ﾋﾟﾛﾛﾛ

ZIL
FINE
FINE
FINE
FINE

GHH ...

KASUMI!

OPEN UP!

PLEASE!

...!

OPEN UP! PLEASE!

GUARRRH!

ALL

GO!!

"I"

"I"

"I"

"I"

...!

ゴゴゴ

IAAAAHHH!

ゴゴゴゴゴゴゴゴ

!

ゴゴ

WAAAHH!

AAAAHH!

KRR AKKK

hnghk!

ガガ

AAHHH!

!

TO

IP

11

OH NO!

KA SU- MI!

IP 11 IP 11

AARRGH!

IP 11 11

M my body ...

Why now of all times ...

GUU

UHH ...

NO! DON'T!

I'm starting to petrify ...!

!?

KATH-RYN!

!

ズル ズル

SHAAH!

ズ

ズ

...

ズル ズル

aaghh ...

IYA AAAA AA!

70N!!

!

KA
SU-

!

ZU

Help me ...

... Marco!

ガシッ

!

ガリ

リ

Marco ...?!

ugh

GOGOGOGO

GOGOGOGO

STILL FILLED WITH WATER ...

huff ...

HERE I COME, ZEUS!

CLACK

THREE GRE-NADES LEFT ...

SHIT!

!

SHE IS THE KEY FACTOR IN THIS GAME.

YOU MEAN KASUMI?

!

YOU DON'T THINK IT WAS A MISTAKE TO LEAVE THE GIRL BEHIND?

...AND ALSO WITH THE CAPSULE ENGINEER.

IT WAS THE SAME WITH THE SENATOR, WHO KNEW WHO I WAS ...

SHE DOESN'T SEEM TO SUSPECT ANYTHING, BUT...

...ZEUS DIDN'T INCLUDE HER IN THE PLAN WITHOUT A REASON.

I HAVE AN IDEA OF WHAT HE PLANS TO DO ...

AT THE MOMENT, I'M STILL NOT SURE HOW EVERYONE FITS IN THE PICTURE ...

!

AND THEN THERE IS YOU, AND YOUR KNOWLED-GE ABOUT 'ZEUS'.

...

WE WON'T BE ABLE TO GET TO HIM!

!

...BUT ONE THING IS CLEAR ...

AS LONG AS WE'RE NOT PLAYING THE ROLES HE ASSIGNED TO US ...

...!

DAMN ...

SILVER

...

HNGH

TO GET BETWEEN THEM SEEMS LIKE COMMITTING SUICIDE.

SILV

ELECTRIC SHOCKS ...

GHH ...

ARE THESE TWO MONS-TERS A PAIR?

I SHOULD HAVE DRAINED ALL THE WATER FROM THIS SECTION AS WELL ...

HSSS...

GAAH!

MARCO! YOU AR-...

HNGH!

UAAH!

KATH-RYN ...!

!?

!

K... KASUMI ...

GRRNH ...

!

KATHRYN! YOUR ARM ...!

KATH-RYN!

CLIMB UP MY ARM ...

I'M OKAY... QUICKLY ...

IF YOU DON'T LET GO, YOUR ARM WILL ...

LET GO, KATH-RYN!

I A R R G H!

KATHRYN!

HURRY ...

ゼッ

ムクッ

!?

WELL DONE!

ドン

ドン

ドン

EXTRA PAGES OF THE 2004 FALL EDITION

I'M A GREAT FAN OF THE CLASSIC JAPANESE STYLE!

DID YOU KNOW THAT?

YEAH!

CHEESE!

THE STORY SLOWLY REACHES ITS CLI-MAX!

AND THE EXTRA PAGES ARE ALSO MUCH BETTER THAN ...

... BEFORE ...

HEY!

DON'T FALL ASLEEP!

ZZZ

don't act like a prima donna

YOU SHOULD THINK ABOUT WHAT YOU WANT TALK ABOUT TODAY!

I'D VERY MUCH LIKE TO TALK ABOUT MOVIES OR ANIMES, BUT ALL THIS RUBBISH ABOUT FILM RIGHTS MAKES THAT IM-POSSIBLE ...

BUT WE COULD USE THIS OPPORTU-NITY TO TALK ABOUT SEXY POSES ...

YAW

IF WE'RE TALKING ABOUT "SEXY", ONLY ONE PERSON COMES TO MIND: KATHRYN, THE FULL-BOSOMED BLONDE!

Unfortunately she's always dirty in the manga, so I haven't had the chance to draw her in a sexy way. But I have to admit drawing female breasts is not my strong point. It's hard to make them appear three dimensional. Unfortunately, it's the first thing men look at. So it's not cool if I can't draw them properly.

Because of this drawing flaw another mangaka came to the conclusion that ...

IWA-HARA-SAN, YOU DEVEL-OPED A SOFT SPOT FOR BUTTS.

...And now people might think I totally love women's butts.

AND TODAY'S TOPIC IS:

HOW ABOUT SOME THOUGHTS ON BREASTS AND BUTTS?

But I ask you,

AM I ONLY DRAWING WOMEN WITH BUTTS LIKE THESE?

DON'T DRAW ME IN SUCH AN EMBAR-RASSING POSE, GOT THAT?!

Ha ha ha!

What? Did I give myself away?

I'M FINE WITH POS-SIBLY MEE-TING THOSE REQUIRE-MENTS ...

KASUMI AND THE OTHERS CONTINUE TO FLEE FROM THE EVER ENCROACHING OCTOPUS-LIKE MONSTER. HOWEVER... THE STONE TAKING OVER HER BODY WON'T STOP. INTENSE PAIN CONTINUES TO RUN THROUGHOUT HER BODY, AND SHE HAS ALREADY LOST ALL FEELING IN HER ARMS AND LEGS. JUST WHEN ALL HOPE FOR SURVIVAL WAS LOST, A LARGE GROUP OF OCTOPII APPEARED TO STRIKE THE FINAL BLOW...! DRIVEN INTO A CORNER WITH NO ESCAPE, KATHRYN'S HOPES INVOKE A MIRACLE! THE ACTION ADVENTURE CASTLE ESCAPE "KING OF THORNS", TO BE CONTINUED IN THE CLIMACTIC 5TH VOLUME...!

Translated by: yal

silence

Proofed by: Siedr and Ville_77

"We took a little break, but KOT will return to its old schedule very soon. Only two more volumes to go."

Cleaned by: Aladar

"I've got nothing to say now."

Typeset by: Ballzy

"Next chapter has tentacle rape. For serious!"

QC'd by: LoktarOgar

"About goddamn time this was released."

Got mad cleaning and redrawing skillz? Join the fight! Enter Strays' lair at

strays.devserver.org

or

#strays@irc.highway.net